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25,000 more Sudanese flee into Uganda

NAIROBI (R) — About 25,000 more Sudanese refugees have fled into Uganda to escape fresh fighting between government forces and rebels, a United Nations official said Monday. Ahmad Sayed Farah, representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Uganda, said the latest influx brought to 63,000 the number of Sudanese who have crossed into the country this month. "About 25,000 have crossed since Friday," Mr. Farah said. "I am afraid an estimated 60,000 more refugees may cross into Uganda." Mr. Farah said a further 4,800 Sudanese were reported to have crossed into Zaire. "It appears there is total confusion with villagers fleeing in different directions," Mr. Farah added. The Khartoum government launched an offensive against Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) rebels in the area was launched early this month. Churchmen and aid workers say the drive threatens to cut relief supply routes to huge areas affected by famine. SPLA officials told Reuters on Monday fierce fighting was raging at Morobo, a village 15 kilometres north of the border town of Kaya.

Clinton committed to role in Somalia

MARTHA'S VINEYARD (R) — The White House Monday expressed concern over the injury suffered by six American soldiers in Somalia but said President Bill Clinton remained committed to a role in the U.N. mission there. "We're obviously concerned about it," said White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers. "But it does not change our commitment to the mission there." The soldiers were preparing to leave Somalia Sunday when their truck was destroyed by an explosion in Mogadishu believed to have been set off by members of a militia of Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed.

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AMMAN TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1993 RABIE' ALAWAL 6, 1414

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King visits Oman

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein will Tuesday pay a brief visit to Oman for talks with Sultan Qaboos Bin Sa'id, an official announcement made on Jordan Television said Monday.

Hariri in Oman

MUSCAT (AP) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, seeking aid to rebuild battered South Lebanon, arrived Monday for talks with Sultan Qaboos Bin Sa'id. Arab countries, including Oman, promised \$500 million in assistance following last month's Israeli blitz against guerrillas in South Lebanon. The Arab states of the Gulf region are expected to contribute the most. Mr. Hariri, accompanied by Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid, was in Bahrain on Sunday and then in Qatar before coming to Oman.

Babangida to quit, his aide say

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's military ruler General Ibrahim Babangida will step down on Wednesday, a senior aide said on Monday. "I can assure you that he is leaving on Wednesday," the aide, who asked not to be named, told Reuters (see earlier story on page 8).

Libyan minister delays Turkey trip

ANKARA (R) — Libyan Foreign Minister Omar Al Montasser postponed a visit to Turkey, due to have begun on Monday, at the last minute, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said. The ministry did not give a reason but the Turkish treasury said that talks on Turkish-Libyan trade ties, soured by huge debts owed by Libya to Turkish contractors, were going ahead. A Libyan delegation was due in Ankara on Wednesday for a three-day joint economic commission meeting. Mr. Montasser had been due to meet President Suleyman Demirel, Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and Foreign Minister Hikmet Cedin.

Mars probe 'missing'

PASADENA (AP) — Space engineers are looking for the "missing" Mars observer spacecraft probably was hit by a temporary computer glitch and is not lost in space forever. They repeatedly radioed commands in an attempt to get a response from the spacecraft, a high-tech robot designed to give scientists their most detailed global look at Mars. Even without a reply, Mars observer has automatic computer programming to make it fire its thrusters and start orbiting the red planet on Tuesday. It then would try to contact Earth on Wednesday, said Glenn Cunningham, manager of the \$980 million project run by Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Engineers lost touch with Mars observer about 9 p.m. Saturday (0100 GMT Sunday).

Turkish Cypriot premier sets election date

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish-Cypriot Prime Minister Dervis Eroglu said Monday parliamentary elections would take place in the breakaway north of Cyprus on Nov. 28. The Turkish news agency said Mr. Eroglu disclosed the early election date to visiting Turkish journalists in the port of Kyrenia. No other details were immediately available.

Pakistan bans street meetings

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan's election commission has promulgated a code of conduct for the run-up to the October elections, banning public meetings on streets and main roads and barring provocative sectarian speeches. A commission statement published Monday said no leader or candidate during the campaign shall call the leader or candidate of another party kafir (non-believer) or a traitor. The code, devised after consultations with leaders of the main parties, does not lay down any special penalties for violations, which will be dealt with under the existing rules, officials said. The elections are being held under a neutral government formed after the resignation of former President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on July 18 under an army brokered settlement of the bitter political rivalry between them.

King: No reversal of decision to cut ties with occupied lands

'Question marks' over PLO's Gaza-Jericho proposal Assassination plot 'not surprising' because of frequent attacks

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday ruled out any reversal of Jordan's 1988 decision to sever administrative and legal ties with the Israeli-occupied territories noting that the severance of relations came upon the request of the Palestinians.

"Our decision stands. There is no going back on it, and there is no point of discussing this question in any form," the King said to an interview with Agence France Presse (AFP).

"The Palestinian brothers had sought to shoulder their own responsibilities concerning their own cause with our full backing. As long as this is what they chose on the basis of Resolution 242, one can only go along this line and there is no room for going back in any way," he said.

King Hussein said he was surprised by a proposal from Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat for a partial Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and called for urgent talks with the PLO.

The King said there had been "no coordination at all between Jordan and the Palestinians on the question of an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho."

Mr. Arafat Saturday called on Israel to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank city of Jericho at the start of an interim period of Palestinian self-rule.

But the King said he had not examined the possibility of a partial Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

The absence of coordination between the two sides raised "question marks" over the consequences of such a pullout, he said.

"We are awaiting an opportunity to look at this question and that of general coordination with the Palestinians as soon as possible in order to avoid any negative repercussions," the Monarch said, without elaborating.

Mr. Arafat arrived here unexpectedly later Monday (see separate story).

In his interview with AFP, the

King called on the Palestinian negotiating team with Israel to seek clarification on the final status of the occupied territories, which the PLO leadership agreed should not be discussed until the third year of self-rule.

"It is necessary to have a precise idea on the final status of the occupied territories," he said.

King Hussein added it was "strange that while Arab states are discussing the status of their occupied territories the Palestinians are negotiating an interim step towards a final solution."

"The question I ask myself is, what is it an interim step towards?"

On a possible federation or confederation of Jordan and the occupied territories, he said: "All the choices must be made freely in the future by the two peoples."

"Such matters should be left to the people to decide on once they have freedom of expression and have the right to self-determination," he said.

"There is an occupied land with its people, and we hope that

the occupation will end soon so that their sufferings will end and they would be in a position to make their own choice."

In 1972, he said, "we put forward three proposals: Return to unity that existed before 1967; a union between Palestine and Jordan; or an independent Palestinian state."

"I remember that the PLO recognised U.N. Security Council Resolution 242 after Jordan's 1988 decision to sever relations," the King said.

However, he added, Jordan offered the idea of an umbrella to the Palestinians to peace talks with Israel in order to overcome obstacles in the way of holding the peace talks.

"Jordan will continue to provide all forms of assistance and backing to the Palestinians until they regain their homeland," he said.

King Hussein said he had "proof" that army cadets were involved in an Islamic fund-

(Continued on page 10)



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is received upon his arrival here Monday by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and other officials (Petra photo)

Arafat arrives, says Jericho no substitute for Jerusalem

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived Monday to assess with His Majesty King Hussein the Middle East peace process before the 11th round of Arab-Israeli negotiations next week.

In arrival comments, Mr. Arafat said that the Palestinians will not cede Jerusalem as their capital and that "Jerusalem is not solely a Palestinian issue but is of concern to all Arabs, Muslims and Christians."

The Palestinian president said that the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank town of Jericho was one of the options to be discussed in the next round of Arab-Israeli talks.

The talks are also expected to focus on Palestinian-Jordanian committees set up during a visit by Mr. Arafat in July to lay the groundwork for confederation between Jordan and any future independent Palestinian state.

Two of them, an economic committee headed on the Palestinian side by PLO Executive

Committee member Suleiman Najjar and a brother and security committee headed by Executive Committee member Yaser Amr, are scheduled to hold their first meetings on Tuesday (see pages 3 and 10).

Mr. Arafat was asked whether reports that he was ready to accept such a limited Israeli withdrawal at this stage were true and whether it meant that he was ready to accept Jericho as a "temporary capital" for a Palestinian government headed by him.

He said the Palestinians insisted on Jerusalem being their capital and that Jericho cannot be a substitute for the Holy City.

Mr. Arafat, who will attend the meeting of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committees opening here today, was received upon arrival by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali and Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs Jawad Al Anani and other officials.

King Hussein was expected to meet the PLO chairman later Monday.

Mr. Arafat expressed hope that the 11th round of Arab-Israeli peace talks will be fruitful. "Let's wait and see," he said.

He stressed that the PLO Executive Committee was unified in supporting Palestinian political moves. A recent meeting held in Tunis and attended by the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks confirmed the PLO's unity, he said.

He said that Mahmoud Darwish, a member of PLO Executive Committee, did not resign but suspended his political activities to dedicate more time to writing.

A PLO spokesman told the Palestinian news agency Wafa that resignations had to be submitted to the Palestine National Council, which elects the executive. The last session of the PNC was in 1991.

"The wish of brother Mahmoud Darwish to devote his time to his creative work, which we are proud of, is an old and legitimate wish, but his resignation has not yet been examined," a PLO statement said in Tunis.

Mr. Darwish, a noted poet, said on Friday he had resigned from the Executive Committee to give all his time to his intellectual work.

(Continued on page 10)

Merbah laid to rest; suspect held

Combined agency dispatches

ALGIERS — Some 2,000 people attended the funeral Monday of assassinated former Algerian Prime Minister Kasbi Merbah, as one of the five suspects in the killing was reportedly arrested.

Mr. Merbah was buried in "Martyrs Square" in the national cemetery of Al Alia where some of the most famous members of the Algerian national movement have been laid to rest.

But as the funeral cortege set off from Mr. Merbah's family home his widow branded former President Chadli Bejedid a "murderer."

Her head shrouded in a white shawl as a sign of mourning, Mr. Merbah's widow, Mrs. Fatima, briefly addressed the crowds waiting outside her home in El Bair.

She said that Mr. Bejedid was responsible for the deaths of all intellectuals and journalists, accusing him of having led Algeria into its current chaos.

The independent daily Al Watan reported Monday that a suspect wounded in Saturday's shootout had been arrested. No other details were given, although the paper reported that Mr. Merbah had fired back at his assassins before dying.

Mr. Merbah and four others died when five gunmen sprayed their two cars with bullets near the ex-premier's summer home on the outskirts of Algiers, family members said.

Among the mourners at the

funeral were Prime Minister-designate Redha Malek, new Defence Minister General Lamine Zerroual and former President Ahmad Ben Bella.

Mr. Merbah, 55, was buried along with the four other victims who died in the bloody attack, his son, Hakim, 25, his brother, Abdul Aziz, 52, and his driver and bodyguard.

No one has claimed responsibility for the ambush although authorities have blamed Muslim militants who, since January 1992, have waged a rebellion against the military-backed government after it cancelled elections that the now-banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

The small nationalist opposition party that Mr. Merbah headed, the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development, hinted that other elements might be behind the murders, calling it the work of "professional killers."

"They have killed the man who sought dialogue and national reconciliation," the party said in a statement.

As recently as July 12, Mr. Merbah, who was also a former head of the country's dreaded political police, had advocated dialogue with Islamic extremists to restore "civil peace" to the country.

Mohammad Boudiaf, first president of the ruling High State Council, was assassinated June 29, 1992, although it remains unclear whether Islamic militants were behind the killing.

Muslim militants were blamed for attacks on three government ministers early this year.

Mr. Malek, the premier-designate, is said to be in favour of a tough crackdown on militants.

Mr. Merbah's assassination has also revived a controversy between the country's political parties, some of which advocate negotiating with the militants and others which favour force to crush the fundamentalist movement.

Observers say the killing of Mr. Merbah was significant as he was a member of the opposition and had expressed reservations about the government's cancellation of the elections. He had also urged the authorities to negotiate with the now-banned FIS.

On Monday, the Islamic Renaissance Movement (MRI) of Sheikh Abdullah Djaballah condemned Mr. Merbah's killing, saying in a communique that it amounted to "a dangerous sign that blind terrorism was taking hold."

It added that the assassination was aimed at "plunging the country in a dark hole that only serves the interests of the West."

Fraoche said it hoped the appointment of a new Algerian prime minister would lend impetus to its struggling programme of economic and political reform.

Algeria's five-man presidential council sacked Prime Minister Abdul Salam Belaid Saturday and appointed Mr. Malek to take his place.

Israel to maintain blockade of Palestinians

Occupied Jerusalem (Agencies) — Israel has approved continued funding of jobs for a limited number of Palestinians living in the occupied territories, signalling continuation of a controversial exclusion policy.

Gad Ben-Ari, a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, said a budget of 45 million shekels (\$16 million) would fund "initiated work" for 15,000 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

This would keep the "make-work" project going until the end of October.

"The decision is to continue the same project created in May," Mr. Ben-Ari said. At that time the government allocated \$11 million to fund jobs for Palestinians in the areas where they live during the months of June and August.

Israel sealed off the Palestinians of the occupied territories in March after a rash of fatal attacks on Israelis by Arabs. The move cut off 100,000 Arabs from mostly menial jobs in Israel.

The closure was condemned by Palestinians for barring them from East Jerusalem, although Israel has been allowing about 50,000 workers to enter on limited permits to work in agriculture and on building sites.

Meanwhile, Palestinian sources said that a relative of Sami Naimat Zaarub, 33, who was found dead in his cell in the Gaza prison on Saturday, wanted a Danish coroner to conduct an independent autopsy on his body.

Military sources said Mr. Zaarub, who had been in military custody on arms charges since May 4, died of pneumonia, but Palestinian officials said he died as a result of army brutality while in custody.

The Palestinian-Israeli Organisation for Human Rights has asked the state prosecutor to investigate whether the prisoner had been placed in an icy cell during interrogation and to explain why he was not admitted to hospital.

Another group, the Palestine Human Rights Information Centre, said more than 30 Palestinians have died in prison since the start of the anti-Israeli uprising in the occupied territories in December 1987.

An Israeli opposition party accused the government Monday of ripping down protest banners across the country because they opposed any return of the Golan Heights to Syria.

"They are taking down hundreds of signs to advance their political views," said Gonen segev, a parliament member from the far-right Tsomet party.

Qadhafi indicates switch in stand

LONDON (Agencies) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said two suspects in the bombing of a U.S. airliner may be persuaded to surrender voluntarily if the West restores diplomatic links with Libya.

In an interview with Scottish television broadcast Monday night, Colonel Qadhafi said U.N. sanctions would never force his country to send the two suspects for trial in Britain or the United States.

The United States, Britain and France have pledged to press the United Nations for stronger sanctions against Libya unless the suspects in the December 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, were surrendered by Oct. 1.

U.S. and British officials want to try the two Libyans in connection with the bombing, which killed 270 people. France is demanding Libyan cooperation in the investigation of the bombing of a UTA airliner over Niger in 1989 which killed 170 people.

Col. Qadhafi reiterated that Libya had nothing to do with the Lockerbie bombing and said the country has been accused for "political reasons."

Last week, Libya repeated that it would surrender the two men



Muammar Qadhafi

for trial somewhere other than the United States and Britain. But in the Scottish television interview, recorded last week, Col. Qadhafi raised the possibility that the two suspects might agree to stand trial in the United States or Britain if diplomatic ties are restored.

"We have been urging them to go and we want them to do that in order for America and Britain to get exposed, but they're very frightened because they say that those who have unjustly accused us could unjustly convict us," Col. Qadhafi said.

"When these two people find

that their country has now established diplomatic relations with these countries, this would give them more confidence to go," he said.

During the 90-minute interview, the Libyan leader took a conciliatory tone to the U.S. and British governments.

He said there were "big possibilities" for cooperation between Libya and the United States and spoke of the courage of "our friend," President Bill Clinton.

He also spoke approvingly of British Prime Minister John Major, calling him "a good man" who was "close to the ordinary people." He said Mr. Major was not as aggressive as former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher because he did not have her woman's "inferiority complex."

Col. Qadhafi blamed the U.N. sanctions, which were imposed in April 1992, for the crash last December of the Libyan Arab Airlines Boeing 727 in Libya with the loss of 157 lives.

Col. Qadhafi said the sanctions had stopped the airlines from getting spare parts and prevented technicians from travelling to Libya to check planes for safety.

"That is why the plane came down on a flight between Benghazi and Tripoli," he said.

Executive Committee to meet on PLO crisis

Combined agency dispatches

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will meet Thursday in Tunis to discuss a financial and political crisis crippling the organisation, a committee member said Monday.

The PLO's leadership called for the meeting to examine the organisation's internal and financial situation, Abdul Rahim Malul, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) political bureau, told AFP in Amman.

A prominent member of the 18-strong committee, poet Mahmoud Darwish, announced his resignation on Thursday and Shafiq Al Hout, the PLO's representative in Lebanon, said Sunday he was suspending his participation in the decision-making body.

Mr. Malul said other resigna-

tions were in the offing, adding that "a growing number of Executive Committee members were very concerned about the PLO's political concessions."

He said the PLO's insatiable financial needs had led to the financial crisis facing the leadership.

Mr. Malul said he would attend, even though the PFLP has boycotted Executive Committee meetings since November 1991 to protest against the conditions under which the Palestinians committed themselves to the Middle East peace process.

Another Executive Committee member, Tayseer Khaled of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, blamed the current crisis on corruption in the leadership's upper ranks.

"The financial blunder

(Continued on page 3)

"Confidence crisis," page 10.

Iraq: U.N. talks should aim at lifting sanctions

AMMAN (Agencies) — Iraq insisted Monday that technical talks with the United Nations at the end of this month should also discuss Baghdad's demand that world trade sanctions be lifted.

An Iraqi Foreign Ministry statement, read to the Associated Press in Amman by telephone, confirmed that Baghdad would participate in the Aug. 31 talks.

Those talks are aimed at resolving an impasse over the deployment of monitoring cameras at Iraqi missile sites. The cameras have been installed, but are not yet switched on, pending the outcome of the New York talks.

The ministry statement said Iraq wants the talks to include the possible lifting of international sanctions imposed on Iraq after its Aug. 2, 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

With the United States and

Britain still firmly in favour of sanctions, Iraq is not expected to make much progress towards lifting the punitive measures imposed three years ago.

The talks will be a follow-up to the July visit to Iraq by Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission charged with destroying Iraq's non-conventional and long-range weapons.

General Amer Rasheed, head of Iraq's military-industrial commission, will head Baghdad's delegation to the meetings, said a ministry statement.

In an interim compromise to avert a U.S. attack, Iraq agreed to the placement of cameras at the missile sites. But they will not be activated unless the talks in New York resolve various issues on long-term monitoring.

"On the basis of the agreement

Sheikh Jaber in Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah arrived Monday for talks with President Hafez Al Assad on the Middle East peace talks and regional security.

In Beirut, police defused a bomb at the entrance to a building housing offices of two Kuwaiti companies, a day before the emir's scheduled arrival in the Lebanese capital.

Sheikh Jaber arrived in Damascus from Cairo where he held similar discussions with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. A new round of Middle East peace talks begins Aug. 31 in Washington.

The emir and Mr. Assad also were expected to discuss the Damascus declaration, signed by eight Arab states in 1991.

The plan involved stationing tens of thousands of troops from resource-poor but manpower-rich Syria and Egypt in the oil-rich but lightly populated Gulf, to help prevent a repetition of such events as the invasion of Kuwait.

It soon foundered and the Gulf states went their own way.

Syria and Egypt had sent troops to the Gulf region to join the U.S.-led coalition force that drove Iraq's army out of Kuwait.

In Beirut, a police spokesman, who cannot be named in line with regulations, said the bomb, attached to a timer, was defused at 2:58 p.m. (1158 GMT) two minutes before its set-off time.

He said the bomb was planted at the entrance to an eight-storey building housing offices of Kuwait Airways and Bank of Lebanon and Kuwait in Beirut's Hamra commercial thoroughfare.

Petitioners try desperately to keep Demjanjuk in Israel

Change of law, repeated appeals in court, and 'prima facie evidence' among tools

By Ruth Ebenstein
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — Opponents of John Demjanjuk's release will do anything they can to prevent him from leaving Israel, they said Sunday — even if it means changing the law to get him tried.

"I'm already speaking with members of parliament from the left and the right," Avi Bekker, a spokesman for the World Jewish Congress, told The Associated Press.

Israel's supreme court last month overturned a 1988 death sentence against the 73-year-old Ukrainian-born Ohio auto worker for being Ivan the Terrible, a Nazi camp guard who killed over 800,000 people at the Treblinka camp.

But it said there was convincing evidence he belonged to a Nazi guard unit that helped kill people and served in the Sobibor camp.

In all, eight high court justices and the attorney general have decided against a new trial, citing the danger of double jeopardy and saying legal proceedings against Mr. Demjanjuk have already dragged on too long.

The attorney general also noted that the original 1986 U.S. extradition order was only to allow Mr. Demjanjuk to stand trial for the charges relating to Sobibor.

Nine petitioners disagreed, and last week were granted until Sept. 2 to find new reasons to keep Mr. Demjanjuk in Israel to face trial for charges relating to Sobibor and elsewhere.

Mr. Bekker said he hoped the process would buy enough time to change the law so Mr. Demjanjuk would be tried.

"We want the parliament to initiate a motion saying the law dealing with Nazi criminals should be more flexible in matters of extradition and double jeopardy," he said.



John Demjanjuk

said. Efraim Zuroff, a spokesman for another U.S.-based petitioner, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre of Los Angeles, agreed that Israel needed pushing from the appellants to bring Mr. Demjanjuk to justice.

"The sad story is that instead of Israel doing the work itself, private organisations are forced to," Mr. Zuroff said in an interview.

"The trouble with Israel is we try to be holier than the Pope," Mr. Avraham Cassirer, an attorney representing eight survivors of Sobibor living in Israel, told the Associated Press. "France would have hung him, the UK would have killed him, Germany would have locked him away forever."

Mr. Cassirer said his tactics would be to file and refile for appeal until Mr. Demjanjuk gets tired. He hopes to get a sitting of 11 judges — the historic maximum for the court — to hear the appeal.

This would mean that the eight justices who have already said Mr. Demjanjuk should not be retried would have to step down temporarily, to be replaced by district court judges.

A statement from the Justice Ministry said that an appeal to an 11-justice court was theoretically possible.

Irwin Cotler, an expert on international law working with the World Jewish Congress, rejected repeated appeals, saying that if the supreme court rejected next month's appeal, that would be the end of it.

He preferred to focus on Israel's obligations under international law as an appeal tactic.

"The international law principle is overriding whenever a person is found in any jurisdiction against whom there is prima facie evidence of crimes against humanity," Mr. Cotler said.

He said Israeli law was problematic in making an appeal stick, because the supreme court would be in the unusual position of overriding the attorney general if it ordered a new trial.

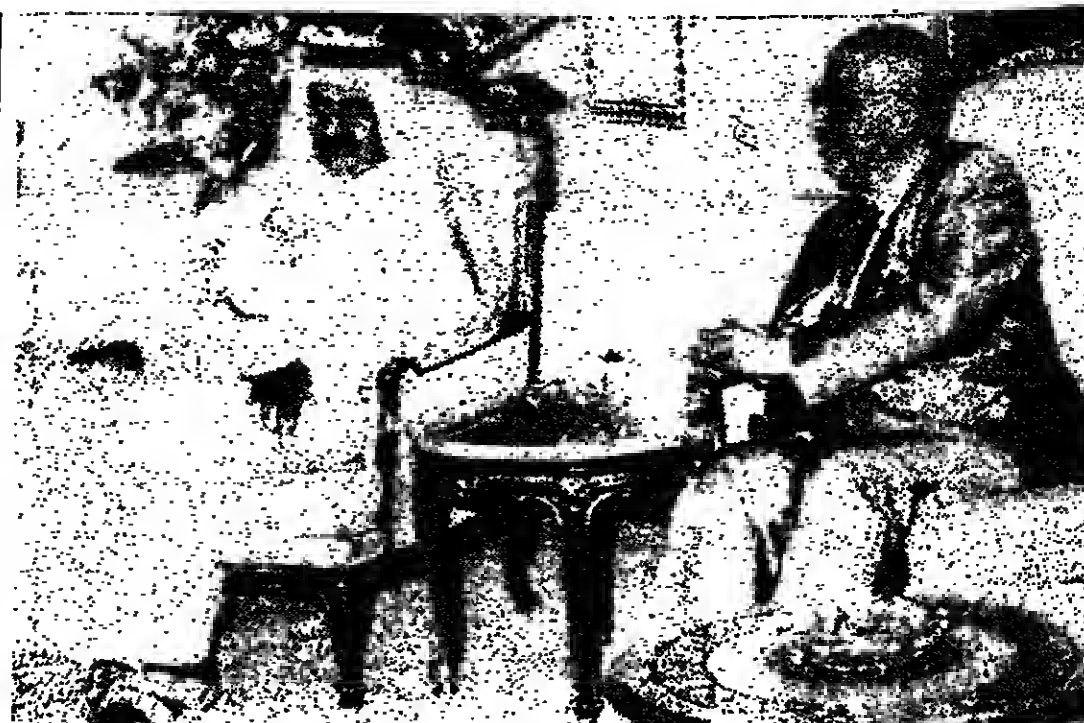
The criterion is that the supreme court will intervene only if the attorney general was unreasonable in the extreme," he said. "That criterion in itself is unreasonable and inappropriate."

Mr. Zuroff said the Wiesenthal centre would address double jeopardy by introducing evidence that Mr. Demjanjuk was at other camps not mentioned in the original trial.

He admitted that all the research was not in, but "we know that someone in those places in his position was involved in implementing the final solution," Mr. Zuroff said, using a Nazi euphemism.

Yoram Sheftel, Mr. Demjanjuk's lawyer, has said the petitioners are exploiting Israel's legal system to deny Mr. Demjanjuk his rights — and has noted that the new charges have come late in the game, seven years after his extradition.

Mr. Zuroff conceded that point. "A lot of these avenues were not fully explored because we were convinced we had Ivan the Terrible," he said.



LEBANON MISSION: Qatari Crown Prince Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani (left) Sunday with Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid. The Arab League chief is accompanying Lebanese Premier Rafik Hariri on a visit to the Gulf states to raise funds for Lebanon (AFP photo)

Berne: No negotiations with PKK over hostages

BERNE (R) — Switzerland has said it would not negotiate directly with the PKK (Kurdistan Labour Party), which is fighting for a separate Kurdish state, over the release of its three hostages.

"We will not negotiate directly with the PKK. The Turkish authorities are responsible for security in Turkey," Foreign Ministry spokesman Franz Egle said.

The Brussels-based Kurdish committee said on Saturday the armed wing of the PKK (Kurdistan Labour Party), which is fighting for a separate Kurdish state, had seized four foreign tourists in its latest strike against Turkey's lucrative tourism industry.

Switzerland said later that three of its nationals — a young married couple and a man — were missing, along with an Italian. The Swiss are all from the southern canton of Ticino, bordering Italy.

The Kurdish committee said the home countries of the four tourists should contact ERNK, the political wing of the banned PKK. But Turkey will not allow any country to negotiate directly with the PKK, saying this would imply recognition of the rebels.

The Swiss foreign ministry issued a statement Sunday evening saying Switzerland's embassy in Ankara had asked Turkish authorities to help secure the

release of the three Swiss hostages.

Mr. Egle said contacts had been going very well and that the Turkish authorities had been "very cooperative."

The Swiss embassy in Ankara has been in contact with the Turkish authorities, with the aim of finding out where the hostages are, and asking Turkish support in securing their release," the ministry's statement said.

The ministry added there were "indications that the PKK were behind the kidnappings" and said it had set up a group of experts whose aim was to secure the speediest possible release of those kidnapped.

"The first task is to find out where the hostages are, and what is their state of health," the statement said.

Spokesman Egle said he could not confirm reports that the hostages were Jehovah's Witnesses, who were in the region to seek the remains of Noah's Ark.

Mount Agri (Ararat), which lies just inside modern Turkey, is a popular site for Biblical researchers looking for the ark.

Jehovah's Witnesses are a Christian fundamentalist sect which rejects all other religions and deifications, believes in the imminent end of the world and refuses to accept civil authority where it clashes with its own principles.

Former first lady of Israel dies

TEL AVIV (AP) — Ofira Navon, the former Israeli first lady who brought a high profile to the job by lobbying for the rights of the disadvantaged, died Sunday at 57.

Mrs. Navon, wife of fifth Israeli President Yitzhak Navon, died from leukemia at Hadassah Ein Kerem Hospital in occupied Jerusalem, Israel Radio said.

When her husband was inaugurated into the largely ceremonial post in 1978, Mrs. Navon raised the profile of a job that most of her predecessors were happy to keep low-key.

"It's a very hard job," she told Israel army radio in May after the latest president, Ezer Weizman, was sworn in. "But there is the satisfaction of the fact that you are at the centre of power, that you can use your ties, your ability to influence."

Mrs. Navon, a developmental psychologist, lobbied for the rights of the disabled and for children's rights.

In 1979, she was diagnosed with breast cancer and rejected a mastectomy, opting for chemotherapy and a lumpectomy. Later, she argued for the right of the patients to determine treatment.

Yitzhak Navon served as president until 1983. The couple represented Israel during its first peace treaty with an Arab state, the Camp David accords with Egypt, and during its most controversial war, in Lebanon.

By the time she was 19, Ofira Erez had been named "Sabari" (native-born Israeli girl) of the year, and had represented Israel in a beauty contest sponsored by the French magazine, Elle. She married Mr. Navon in 1963.

She was the first Israeli-born first lady, and the couple was the first presidential "mixed marriage" — he was a Sephardic, or Middle Eastern Jew, she was born to Ashkenazi, or Eastern European parents.

That mix, and the fact that they were the first to bring small children to the first family, made them symbols of the new Israel.

There were other contrasts: He was the phlegmatic establishment politician; she was an outspoken career woman; he was the scion of a family that had lived in Jerusalem for years; she was a child of the new city of Tel Aviv.

After his presidency, Mr. Navon served as education minister from 1984-1991. Mrs. Navon, stung by press criticism of her outspokenness, receded from the public eye but remained a volunteer for her favourite causes.

Mrs. Navon, survived by her husband, her daughter Naama, 20, and her son, Erez, 19, was to be buried Monday, Israel Radio said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nighttime bomb in Tehran injures four

NICOSIA (AP) — A bomb exploded before dawn Monday in the Iranian capital of Tehran, injuring four people, damaging cars and shattering windows, the national news agency IRNA said. The shattering windows, the national news agency IRNA said, the bomb was planted in a car in the southern part of the city. The report gave few details about the bomb, but said the injuries were to people who may have been in the car. However, the Mujahideen-e-Khalq, an Iranian opposition group based in Iraq, has claimed numerous attacks inside Iran this year. Also, tensions between Iran and Iraq, combatants in a brutal war from 1980-88, have been running high in recent months.

Somalis end protest at conditions in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Hundreds of Somali refugees staging a protest at the U.N. offices in Cairo to demand more aid agreed to end their action on Sunday after Egyptian diplomats intervened. About 400 Somalis occupied the gardens of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Cairo. Some were there for five days and were on hunger strike. The Somalis agreed to stop their protest when an Egyptian diplomat, a UNHCR officer, and a Somali representative agreed they would visit the charity Caritas which is due to give them money. Their leader Basha Ahmad Abdi told Reuters the UNHCR had decided to give each family 350 Egyptian pounds (\$100) per month and each single person 100 Egyptian pounds (\$30). Both figures were much lower than those given to Somali refugees in other countries, Mr. Abdi said. But UNHCR officer Bhairija Panday said no sum had been fixed and each case would be treated on its individual merits. About 7,000 Somalis in Egypt receive refugee help.

2 held for smuggling drug into Israeli jail

TEL AVIV (AP) — Two men found out heroin does not go better with coke when they were charged Sunday with smuggling the white powder into jail in a soft drink bottle, Israel Radio reported. An alert policeman heard Avraham Maman and Yisrael Cohen shout out, "It's okay, it's in the coke," as they ended a visit with friends in the lockup in Rishon LeZion, a Tel Aviv suburb, the radio said. The policeman checked out the bottle, the report said, found 26 grammes of heroin, and marched the two back into the lockup for a taste of the real thing. The Petach Tikva magistrate's court detained the two on charges of drug possession Sunday, the radio said.

Israeli police catch four escapees

TEL AVIV (AP) — Police nabbed three of four prisoners Sunday who had escaped the Tel Aviv district prison the night before, Israel Radio reported. The four had escaped when the ringleader, a former police informer, held up a guard at gunpoint and released the other three Saturday night. The escapees were caught in Jaffa, south of Tel Aviv, when a police blockade stopped them after they had careened around Tel Aviv in a stolen car, the radio said. "All four attempted to escape on foot, but only one, Kaddafi Bairi from Jaffa, got away. Police recovered the .22 caliber pistol the ringleader had used to help his friends escape when he caught the three, the radio said. They were investigating how he had obtained the gun. All four — two Arab Israelis from Jaffa and two Palestinians from East Jerusalem — were in prison on criminal charges. Mr. Bairi, 18, was in jail for car theft.

8 killed in Iran coal mine blast

NICOSIA (R) — Eight coalminers were killed and about a dozen were missing after an explosion at a state-owned mine in southeast Iran, an Iranian official said Monday. An official of the Mines and Metals Ministry said rescue teams had recovered eight bodies after part of Babnizou mine near the town of Zaranj, 720 kilometres southeast of Tehran, collapsed when a pocket of methane gas exploded on Thursday. They were searching for about a dozen others they hoped would still be alive in the tunnels at the "relatively large" mine, he told Reuters by telephone from Tehran. Tehran's Salam newspaper said 18 miners injured in the blast were being treated in hospitals at the nearby provincial capital of Kerman. The official said the ministry had sent a team of experts to investigate the cause of the blast at the mine, run by the state-owned Kerman Coal Company.

Russian pilot commits suicide in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — A Russian airline pilot has committed suicide by jumping out his hotel window in northwestern Iran, an Iranian newspaper reported Monday. The Farsi-language Salam said the 30-year-old pilot, identified as Anatoly Kopolin, killed himself Thursday by jumping out of his room at the Jasm Hotel in Mashhad, capital of Iran's northeastern Khorasan province. The report, received in Nicosia, said the motive was not known. It did not say for which airline Kopolin worked. Kopolin's body was flown to Russia, it added. Several airlines from the Commonwealth of Independent States have scheduled flights to Mashhad.

Kuwait says Indian labour row solved

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwait Foreign Ministry official said on Monday a row involving 130 Indian workers and a private manpower firm over contract terms had been solved. Jasssem Al Sabagh, director of the ministry's Asia and Africa Department, said the workers, who complained they had been paid about half the 45 dinar (\$148) per month salary stipulated in their contracts, would be paid in full. He said the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour would ensure the workers received their full pay as cleaners and loaders of vegetable market trucks for Al Nibras Stevedoring and Cleaning Company. "Kuwait will keep respecting the rights of workers as it always did," Mr. Sabagh told Reuters by telephone. An Indian embassy official told the manpower company would start repatriating the workers in groups later this week. Diplomats said the workers had taken refuge at the Indian embassy last week for fear of violence after some alleged they were assaulted by Kuwaiti police during a labour dispute. The workers also said the company had not honoured an undertaking to pay for end-of-contract flights home.

Morocco builds new wonder of the world of Islam

By Ali Bouzerda
Reuters

CASABLANCA, Morocco — A modern wonder of the world of Islam, it is designed to give worshippers the feeling that their place of prayer is floating on water.

To top that, its minaret reaches taller than any other in the world.

Now, after six years of round-the-clock working, King Hassan Two mosque on the edge of the Atlantic Ocean, is finally complete.

"Apart from Mecca and the Prophet Mohammad's mosque in Medina, it will be the biggest in the Islamic World and a best bestowed upon all Moroccans," King Hassan said in an appeal for public donations for the mosque five years ago.

On Aug. 30, he will realise his dream when he inaugurates the huge mosque in time for the Prophet's birthday.

King Hassan Two mosque, which combines high-tech with ornate Muslim tradition,

towers over the historic city of Casablanca.

King Hassan decided to build the mosque in memory of his father Mohammad V who died in Casablanca in 1961 but is buried in the capital Rabat.

Elio Riello, assistant to French architect Michel Pinseau, says its location is no accident.

"Its geographical setting was important as the mosque is the last or the first rampart on the land of Islam, whether you come from the East or the West."

The waves of the Atlantic — up to 10 metres high — break against massive supports which protect the ground on which the mosque sits, giving the faithful the impression, while praying, that the great mosque is floating on water.

Officials say the king wanted it that way because The Koran refers to Allah's "throne over the water."

Designed by Michel Pinseau, a personal friend of the king, the mosque can

accommodate 25,000 worshippers inside its main hall. A wide polished marble esplanade around the mosque can accommodate a further 75,000 worshippers.

"The whole of St. Peter's in Rome could fit inside the main building," one French architect said. "The minaret will be higher than the Great Pyramid Of Cheops," he added.

The ceiling, at its point, rises 65 metres above the floor.

The white and green minaret rises 200 metres. A laser on the top projects a 30 kilometres beam east at night to show the way to the Holy City of Mecca.

A mechanically-operated roof opens in three minutes to transform the hall into an open-air assembly area.

More than 10,000 craftsmen have decorated the interior of the mosque with mosaics and cedarwood ceiling carvings. Some are embellished with gold leaf. A total of 2,500 pillars support the highly decorated

ceiling of the main hall.

Fifty huge candelabras of venetian crystal, each weighing over a tonne, hang from the ceiling.

Hand-made plaster stucco and geometric designs adorn the enormous central prayer room.

There are 124 fountains spouting water night and day for ritual washing underneath it.

The mosque has two huge mezzanines reserved for women and two steam baths — one for men and one for women.

A modern library, a religious school in adjacent buildings and parking space for more than 1,000 cars make up the complex.

The French company Bouygues began work on the main building on Aug. 11, 1987.

The mosque is one of the most ambitious civilian construction projects undertaken in Morocco, a country of 26 million people, since independence in 1956.

It is also one of the most expensive.

King Hassan launched a public subscription which raised more than three billion dirhams (\$320 million) by the end of 1990. The \$13 million contributors included 40,000 foreigners.

The Moroccan monarch contributed 6.8 million dirhams (\$800,000).

Officials have not revealed the final cost but experts estimate it could reach \$500 million.

Moroccan officials portray the mosque as a symbol of tolerance.

"The Hassan Two mosque is the mirror of tolerant Islam," Interior and Information Minister Driss Bazzi said.

Asked about the mosque, Abdul Salam Yassin, 66, spiritual leader of the outlawed Al Adl Wal Ihsane (Justice and Charity) group, said:

"They say it's the biggest in the world. We are pleased to have it. We would like to be able to preach and pray there, if ever they let us."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-15

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 Omnisciences
18:30 A Comedy Series
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 People Next Door
21:00 Faces and Places
21:30 A Kind of Magic
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature Film: White Heat

PRAYER TIMES

04:38 Fair
06:01 (Sunrise) Doha
12:38 Dhuh
16:16 'Asr
19:17 Maghreb
20:38 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swallow, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 641757
Terresanta Church Tel. 623366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 77261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824326
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be relatively hot and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Agaba winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 21 / 34
Agaba 26 / 39
Djarsa 20 / 38
Jordan Valley 25 / 39
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Agaba 37. Humidity readings: Amman 21 per cent, Agaba 38 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shikha 752504
Dr. Yousef Al Faghi 750888
Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad 853880
Dr. Salaman Al Daboudi 845070
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asima pharmacy 637055
Al Salam pharmacy 626772
Yacoub pharmacy 649455
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairooli pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632
DRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Zoubi (-)
Alquds pharmacy (-)
ZARQA:
Dr. Ahmad Al Tarifi 900806
Khalil pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 602800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Acrem Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs:
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381332
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mahbas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musasher Hospital 6672757
The Islamic, Abadi 66612757
AQABA:
Italian, Al-Muhajiroon 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, Marka 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 686100
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)843323
Zarqa Maternity (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)987632
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990970
DRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272715
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247103
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)311111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)532005, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:00 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:30 Damascus (RJ)
08:30 Dhahran (RJ)
09:45 Agaba (RJ)
10:30 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:30 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
11:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
12:00 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
17:35 London (RJ)
17:35 Frankfurt (RJ)
18:00 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
20:30 Vienna (RJ)
09:00 Frankfurt (RJ)
01:30 Montreal (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
08:15 Beirut (ME)
12:15 Athens, Vienna (OS)
14:15 Cairo (MS)
16:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
17:00 Riyadh (SU)
17:45 Dubai (AZ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:30 Agaba (RJ)
12:00 Vienna (RJ)
12:45 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
12:50 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
13:00 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
13:25 Frankfurt (RJ)
13:45 Cairo (RJ)
13:45 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
13:55 London (RJ)
21:30 Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:15 Athens, Vienna (OS)
22:45 Colombo, Singapore (RJ)
23:00 Dubai (RJ)
01:30 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)
08:15 Beirut (ME)
12:15 Athens, Vienna (OS)
14:15 Cairo (MS)
16:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
17:00 Riyadh (SU)
17:45 Dubai (AZ)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg

Apples 700/900
Apricots 440/480
Bananas 350/400
Bananas (Mukammal) 630
Beans 350/390
Cabbage 200/100
Carrots 360/220
Cauliflowers 350/250
Cucumbers (large) 280/150
Cucumbers (small) 350/230
Eggplants 170/100
Garlic 400/300
Grapes 750/500
Green peas 300/200
Lemons 280/200
Marrow (large) 300/200
Marrow (small) 280/150
Mushrooms 90/50
Onion (dry) 220/150
Oranges 440/300
Peaches 700/500
Pears 900/800
Pepper (hot) 180/120
Pepper (sweet) 320/220



Senior officers of the Royal War College Monday attend a lecture delivered by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali

Premier reviews government stands in lecture at Royal War College

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday delivered a lecture at the Royal War College in which he reaffirmed Jordan's stands with regard to the Middle East peace process, noting that Jordan was providing an umbrella for the Palestinians in the peace negotiations.

Stating that the coming elections will be free and fair, the prime minister pledged government action to ensure that the parliamentary elections are held in an atmosphere of freedom and democracy.

With reference to its economic policy, Dr. Majali said that the government was seeking to encourage the private sector to assume its full role in contributing to the Jordanian economy and was encouraging investments by Jordanians and external concerns.

Ministerial visit to Tafileh focuses on governorate's needs

TAFILEH (Petra) — The government is proceeding with plans to decentralise, and programmes have been designed for each governorate in this respect, said Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz.

Speaking during a visit to Tafileh with the Ministers of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, Public Works and Housing and Social Development, Dr. Fariz cited as an example plans for every governorate's fiscal budget for 1994 in a manner that would ensure justice and provide budget for 1994 in a manner that would ensure justice and provide appropriate services to citizens.

The ministers' visit to the southern governorate Monday, said Dr. Fariz, aims at paving the way for a study of its problems.

"The ministers are here for a close hand study of the governorate's problems so that these will be considered in the fiscal budget for 1994," said Dr. Fariz.

The planning minister urged the private sector to participate in the efforts towards developing the governorate through investment projects that can raise the living standards of local residents.

Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Mohammad Mahdi Al Farhan said at the meeting, which was attended by heads of local councils and notable citizens, that all requests related to city planning and the distribution of land will be taken into account and discussed by the provincial governors together with the heads of local councils.

Minister of Public Works Khalaf Hawati said that the ministry was going ahead with plans to meet citizens' requests for agricultural roads. He said that sufficient allocations will be made in the 1994 budget for these projects.

Minister of Social Development Mohammad Al Sqour told the meeting that the ministry was cooperating with the local councils to improve social services. He said local citizens would be encouraged to carry out small-scale income-generating projects and to help increase their incomes.

Tafileh Governor Ahmad Lawzi reviewed the governorate's needs for roads and maintenance of tourism attractions like the Afra bath. He also said the town councils were in need of engineers and technicians, and certain areas still lack industrial zones.

The ministers visited several projects in the region as well as the Dana Wildlife Reserve.

Scholars to discuss Muslims and the minorities of Europe

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Thought Forum (ATF) has invited scholars from Europe and the Islamic World to hold a two-day Arab-European dialogue concerning "Muslims and the minorities of Europe" in Amman on Sept. 1 and 2.

The announcement, made by the ATF Monday, said that the meeting will be the fifth session of Arab-European dialogue and will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who is the ATF president.

It said that the participants, who will be holding their meeting at the Forte Grand Hotel in Amman, will discuss the following topics: the current problems of immigration, causes of fundamentalism in Arab countries, the extremist right wing movements, Muslims in Europe and their future, and human rights in Arab-European relations.

19-year-old hanged for murder of relative

AMMAN (AP) — A 19-year-old has been hanged for stabbing to death a relative in what appeared to be a contract killing, a security official said.

The youth, identified only as Munther S., was hanged Sunday at the Suwayda prison, 100 kilometres south of Amman, said the official, who requested anonymity.

Munther's cousin agreed to pay him JD2,000 if he killed her husband, who refused to grant a divorce, the official said, citing court evidence.

The killing took place at Aujan, a town 20 kilometres north of Amman, in July 1992.

The unidentified woman was sentenced to 20 years with hard labour. Her daughter and another person were convicted as accomplices and received prison terms of 15 years and 12 years, the official added.

Majali reiterates Jordan's support of Palestinian peace negotiators

5 Palestinian sub-committees formed for higher joint panel meetings soon

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday reiterated Jordan's continued support of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks noting that the Kingdom seeks a settlement on all the Arab-Israeli tracks.

Speaking at a meeting with a delegation representing the Palestinian People's Party, the prime minister called for further coordination among the members of the Palestinian delegation, noting that united ranks can help them to regain their rights and bolster the Arab negotiators' stand.

The delegation leader, Bashir Barghouti, voiced his party's support for continued Jordanian-Palestinian coordination within the peace process framework and for defining the future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship after the Palestinians have regained their right to self-determination.

The two sides reviewed the Israeli-Palestinian talks and other matters related to the progress of the peace negotiations, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Petra said the two sides also discussed the future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

Minister of State for Prime Minister Affairs Jawad Al Anani and members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations Ghassan Al Khatib, Suleiman Al Najaj and Tayseer Al Arouri were present at the meeting.

Meanwhile, Palestinian sources



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday meets with a delegation of the Palestinian People's Party to review issues related to the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. Attending the meeting were Minister of State for Prime Minister Affairs Jawad Al Anani (left), delegation leader Bashir Barghouti (third from left) and Palestinian peace negotiators Ghassan Al Khatib, Suleiman Al Najaj and Tayseer Al Arouri (Petra photo)

were quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday as saying that the Palestinians have finalised the formation of such committees which will be holding meetings with Jordanian sub-committees under the umbrella of the Jordanian-Palestinian higher joint committee formed last month.

The sources said the Palestinian side to the refugee committee will be led by Samir Ghosheh, the water and Jerusalem committee, by Mohammad Nashashibi, the security and border committee by Yasser Amt, the cultural and information committee by Yasser Abed Rabbo economic committee by Suleiman Al Najaj.

According to the sources, the Joint committees which had held initial meetings last month will resume their talks in Amman in the coming few days.

The committees have been entrusted with the task of discussing the future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship.

Cancer care nursing candidates meet minister

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of nurses, scheduled to start a post-graduate course at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. on caring for cancer patients, Monday met with Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas to review their new venture.

The group was selected by Al Amal Cancer Centre to pursue a masters degree in nursing cancer patients and work at the centre after it starts operation next year.

"The first stage — the construction of the centre — is over and we are now embarking on the second stage which is providing the expertise and the equipment for the cancer patients," said Dr.

Malhas at the meeting.

The minister paid tribute to the national team which has been entrusted with setting up the cancer centre and the Jordanian citizens who, he said, generously contributed towards its construction and operation.

Abdullah Al Khatib, a member of the national team, told the nurses that it was the first time in the history of the Kingdom that a group is being sent abroad to specialise in nursing cancer patients.

"I believe that Jordan will become a regional centre for medical services, something which will, of course, reflect most positively

on the country's economy in addition to the medical field," said Dr. Khatib who is also head of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

GUVS was instrumental in organising a nation-wide campaign to raise funds for this vital project.

At last week's national team meeting, Dr. Khatib announced that so far JD7,750,835 have been collected for the project which has an estimated overall cost of JD13 million.

Addressing the meeting was Sawsan Majali who coordinated the study programme with Georgetown University officials.

Dr. Majali, who holds a Ph. D. in nursing, told the group that 160 male and female nurses had applied for the course, but only 30 were accepted by the national committee.

Of these, 22 were accepted at Georgetown University and the first 17 will leave Tuesday, said Dr. Majali who is also member of the national team of the cancer centre.

She explained that the national team will finance the \$24,000 per student cost of tuition for the nurses.

The course of study is expected to last 16 months.

Customs department collects JD 328.5m in 7 months

AMMAN (Petra) — The Customs Department Monday announced that it collected JD 328,513,583 in the first seven months of 1993, up from JD 285,727,282 in the same period of 1992.

The revenues mark an increase of JD31,810,155 (16 per cent) over estimates in the 1993 fiscal budget, noted the announcement.

Customs Department Director General Mohammad Al Jamal said that duty collected in 1992

amounted to JD 586,116,633 levied on incoming goods, consumption tax, fines and other fees.

"On the whole, the department imposes high customs duty on non-essential products and low-rate duty on the basic commodities and essential products," said Mr. Jamal.

He noted that commodities related to health and medication, as well as those used in training Jordanians in various trades are

subject to very low rates.

He said customs duty constitutes the main source of public revenues in Jordan adding that it is imposed partly as a measure to protect national products against foreign competition and to encourage local industries.

In a drive to decentralise its department has granted additional authorities to customs centres at the borders, especially in preventing smuggling.

U.N. talks

(Continued from page 1)

struck during the visit by Mr. Rolf Ekeus, head of the special commission, to Baghdad in July, the technical talks will start in New York on August 31," the statement said.

It said the talks would cover "outstanding technical problems related to the weapons section of Resolution 687."

Security Council Resolution 687 is the main Gulf war ceasefire resolution under which Baghdad is compelled to give up weapons of mass destruction and the means to produce them.

"They (the talks) will tackle a discussion of means to apply 715 in the light of the position paper the Iraqi side submitted to Rolf Ekeus," the source added.

Resolution 715 outlines U.N. measures to monitor Baghdad's weapons programmes and make sure that banned activities do not take place in the future.

Iraq accepted 715 in principle last month after stalling on it for more than a year.

The source said Iraq said in its position paper that the Security Council should "honour its commitments towards Iraq, especially the removal of the unjust embargo against it."

The source made no mention of talks allowing Baghdad partial oil sales. These talks were suspended on July 14.

But it said that according to the agreement with Mr. Ekeus "political and technical talks will follow the first stage to start in New York Aug. 31."

Committee to discuss PLO crisis

(Continued from page 1)

deepened in light of the leadership's attempt to buy political

alliances," he said, adding that the spate of resignations was aimed at PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and his negotiating team at the peace talks "who run the show with unprecedented incompetence."

Earlier, Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi attributed the Executive Committee's crisis to two factors: "The PLO's economic crisis...and the peace

process, which is not progressing."

Also in Lebanon, a top PLO military official called Monday for Mr. Arafat to resign.

Dr. Ashrawi, warning the PLO's cash crisis could lead to Palestinian institutions in the Israeli-occupied territories and abroad going bankrupt, said the impasse in the peace talks was due to the Jerusalem question, which has created a rift in the organisation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Ukraine

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable to the president of Ukraine, Leonid Kravchuk, congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on his country's national day. The King wished Mr. Kravchuk continued health and happiness and the people of Ukraine further progress and prosperity.

Minister, Turkish envoy review religious affairs

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Religious Affairs Abdul Salam Al Ahdabi received in his office Turkish Ambassador to Jordan Mehmet Ali Iremcelik. Mr. Ahdabi and Mr. Iremcelik discussed means of enhancing Jordanian-Turkish cooperation in religious affairs.

Labour delegation heads for Indonesia

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Khaled Al Ghazawi left Amman Monday at the head of a Jordanian delegation to Indonesia. In a four-day meeting there, the minister will hold talks with the Indonesian ministers of labour and industry on labour-related fields. Issues ranging from control of the labour market and vocational training, to occupational safety procedures will be reviewed in the talks. Mr. Ghazawi is accompanied on the visit by Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Director General Ahmad Atwan and the ministry of labour's advisor, Ayoub Bataineh.

Truck drivers demand special parking lot

AOABA (Petra) — Truck drivers operating between Aqaba and other cities have complained to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that there are no special lots assigned where they can park their vehicles during the discharge and load-up periods in Aqaba. They said that this situation forces them to park alongside the roads next to the containers port. The drivers requested that the concerned authorities help them get a parking lot in order to avoid being fined by traffic police for violations of traffic rules.

Firms to display goods at Damascus fair

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in the Damascus International Fair due to open Saturday for two weeks. A spokesman for the Jordan Exports Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) said 76 Jordanian industrial firms will take part in the fair, displaying samples of their nationally manufactured products. It said Industry and Trade Minister Bassam Al Saket will arrive in Damascus Saturday to attend the opening of the fair.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings by 25 Jordanian artists at the Housing Bank exhibition hall.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Bishara Najjar at Eshbilia Art Gallery, Amra Shopping Centre. The paintings depict Jordanian-Palestinian heritage, Jordanian antiquities, Arab Jerusalem, rural life and natural scenery.

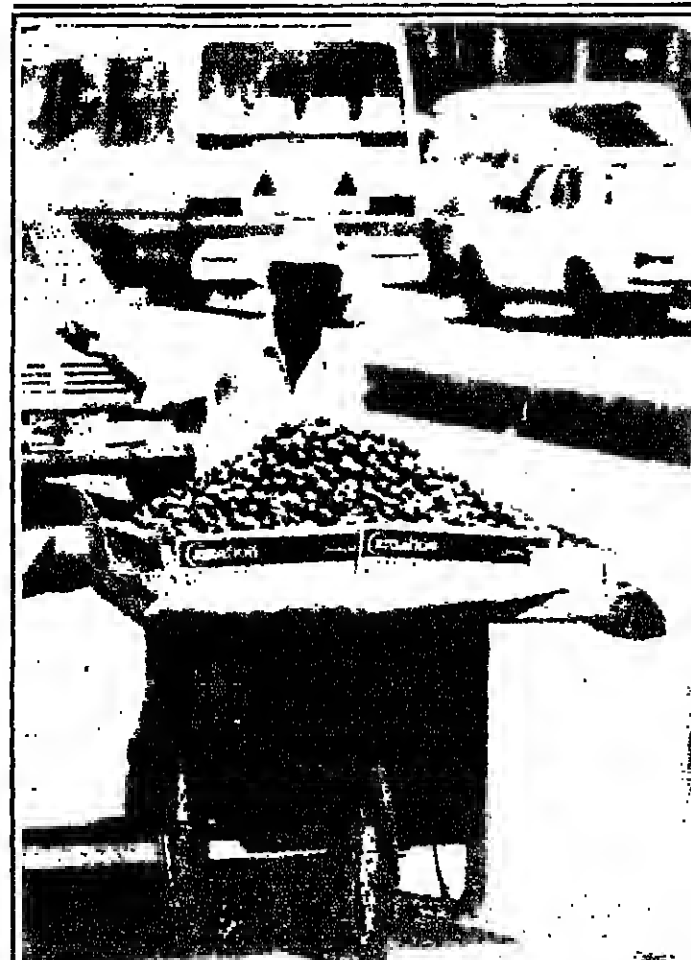
LECTURES

★ Lecture by Dr. Martha Joukowsky on "Excavations at the Southern Temple of Petra" at the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR) at 7:00 p.m.

PLAYS

★ Play entitled "Crescent Night" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

★ Play entitled "Samsira and the Princess" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.



PLUM-FULL: A fruit vendor braves Amman traffic to sell fresh plums (Staff photo by Aynsley Floyd)

Visiting labour panel opens local dialogue

AMMAN (Petra) — An official representing the Asian-American Free Labour Institute (AFLI) in the United States Monday opened a three-day dialogue on labour-related issues with the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions (FJLU).

A FJLU statement said the dialogue between John Sloane and the federation's executive bureau focuses on the Jordanian labour movement and its problems.

The two sides will also review national and pan-Arab issues directly related to labour unions, according to the statement.

Such issues as labour disputes, selection of union leaders, representation of unions in general meetings, workers' needs and rights are to be reviewed in the three-day meetings.

According to the statement the AFLI is part of the American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO).

Established in 1986, the AFLI now has offices in Indonesia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, South Korea, Sri Lanka, and Turkey.

The statement said that the AFLI regularly holds training seminars for labour union leaders.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.
Established 1975

جورديان تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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Onus on other side

WILL THE upcoming 11th round of Arab-Israeli negotiations in Washington produce a breakthrough or at least achieve some solid progress towards peace? Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali told the Jordan Television on Sunday that he was upbeat about the prospects of attaining real progress in the next session of talks planned for the end of this month. "I am very optimistic," the prime minister said. The reason for this optimism, in the words of Dr. Majali, is American assurances that the U.S. now wants "to see concrete progress before the end of this year." Expressing similar anticipation of tangible advancement in the peace talks is Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. "We are really very near in time, in content, and I think it (peace agreement) will come earlier than most people think," Mr. Peres declared Sunday in Helsinki. Syrian President Hafez Al Assad expressed almost identical views a few days ago when he described Washington's current involvement in the peace discussions as more forthright and positive than at any previous time.

The Palestinian side has yet to share this assessment, basically because their track is the most formidable and thorny of all the existing bilateral peace talks. The fact that the Palestinian house is woefully divided has not helped matters much either. Shafiq Al Hout, member of the PLO's Executive Committee, declared Sunday the suspension of his membership for alleged irregularities in the organisation's hierarchy. This move came on the heels of the resignation of Mahmoud Darwish from the same committee apparently for the same reasons offered by Mr. Hout. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had barely recovered from the confrontation with the Palestinian team to the Israeli-Palestinian track when these developments took place, and he will also continue to be plagued by the serious financial constraints that the PLO budget is suffering from. All these complications on the Palestinian front are obviously making decision making difficult and cumbersome for the Palestinian side.

Still the key to progress or lack of it lies with Israel itself, not with Washington or the PLO or the other Arab parties. The sooner that the Rabin government reconciles itself with the inevitability of dealing directly with the PLO the sooner progress can be achieved on the Palestinian-Israeli track. Israel has been inching closer to recognising the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people but is doing so painstakingly. Further movement in that direction would undoubtedly make things easier for the Palestinian side. Given the solemn commitment by Jordan, Syria and Lebanon against signing separate peace accords with Israel, the Israeli government thus holds the key to progress on these other Arab fronts by negotiating more effectively with the Palestinian party. This could not be done without accepting the PLO as a full partner in the peace process.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE MEETINGS of His Majesty King Hussein and the prime minister with the representatives of the media in the past week reflected the importance which the country attaches to the press and the information services, said Al Dustour daily Monday. There is no doubt that the media industry has made major strides over the past few years, serving as a tool for monitoring or criticising policies, actions and behaviours of the public and private institutions, said the paper. Indeed, the efficient journalists and the developed media of Jordan represent an economic asset for the country and a source of pride for Jordanians, it added. For this reason, it said, it has become necessary for the government to set guidelines for the media with the purpose of benefiting from its role in the interest of the nation. The guidelines came frankly and openly from the government and the King, added the paper. The King's meeting with the press reflected the leader's determination to maintain a constructive dialogue with the journalists over all matters of concern to the nation, the paper continued. Both the King and the prime minister are underlining the fact that the media has assumed a major status and is playing a leading role not only in manifesting and projecting the country's achievements on all fronts, but also in influencing the public opinion, added the paper.

THE CURRENT troubled spots around the world and the various regional conflicts we witness nowadays have resulted from the downfall of the old world order, when the Soviet Union collapsed, said Tareq Masarweh, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily Monday. The writer said that the collapse of the Soviet Union allowed the United States to remain the sole superpower, capable of imposing its will on the world and causing these conflicts and wars. The writer said that the world could have achieved a new world order, despite the continued existence of the Soviet Union, through gradual disarmament and the dissolution of the NATO and Warsaw alliances. The world could have tasted peace and security under the umbrella of a new world order, had Moscow and Washington cooperated in resolving the conflicts in Afghanistan, Cambodia and the Middle East, the writer added. It should be added, said the writer, that the success of the United States in rallying the world against Iraq in the Gulf war has enhanced its position in the post cold war era. But, he noted, the success of the United States is allowed to continue as long as the Gulf countries continue to bank on Washington's military adventures. The writer said that no power in the world is capable at present to halt the American arrogance and its greed for power and so, he said, the only means of dealing with the Americans is by diluting their power by involving them more and more in world conflicts so as to exhaust their resources and pave the ground for the ordinary American citizens and tax payers to put an end to such adventures.

The View from Fourth Circle

New visions vs. desperate deeds of discredited old men

The peculiar public controversy over the changes in the electoral law that ushered in a one-person, one-vote system reveals a great deal about the state of Jordanian political culture, and, by extension, about the general political malaise in the Arab World. This highlights some of our deficiencies in the short run, for it affirms that the ways of the past are no longer valid; but in a longer term perspective, it signals an important willingness to build a better future, by coming to terms with our accumulated, structural political weaknesses.

The adoption of the one-person, one-vote system was a good and necessary change, but the manner in which the change was made was not in keeping with the proto-democratic Jordanian and Arab impulses of our time. The credibility of the prime minister and his government, in particular, was damaged because the prime minister had personally told the speaker of Parliament about a month ago that any changes in the law would take place only after a thorough national debate among all political tendencies in the country.

The prime minister's explanation after the fact that His Majesty the King and the government had consulted the different political forces in Jordan before approving the temporary law may be factually correct, but politically it remains open to discussion about its appropriateness. Was this the most suitable way to change the law, or should the government have engaged the public in a more open discussion of the pros and cons of the changes?

One of the cardinal attributes of democracy is that important national decisions are made in public, with all interested parties contributing to the debate. The government's decision to change the law without a public political debate in Parliament or through other systematic means will be seen as a small step back towards the closed politics of the mid-20th century, at a time when the country and the people are striving for the open politics that must usher in the start of the 21st century.

These points relate to the process of political transformation and the manner in which decisions are taken. The substance of our political transformation, however, as manifested in the new electoral law, is another matter. Clearly, the law had to be changed because the old system was antiquated and unfair.

The vehement opposition to the one-person, one-vote system is

very telling, because the opposition has come mainly from established politicians who gained from the old system, and who stand to lose from the new system. Grassroots opposition to the changes are rather mild, for three reasons: Most people are not deeply involved in the process of electoral politics, most of the politicians opposing the changes have little credibility with ordinary people, and the fact that King Hussein personally approved the changes and explained them in his television speech leads most people to accept them without serious questioning.

It is interesting that the strongest opposition comes from politicians on the right and left of the political spectrum. I suspect this is because these folks are precisely the ones who have the most to lose from a new system in which voters have to make their electoral decisions on the basis of practical political programmes and the capacity of politicians to deliver to their constituencies, rather than on the old basis of personal ties, tribal affiliations and emotional sentiments.

In time, I suspect it will become clear that the advantage of the one-person, one-vote system is that it will force more and more voters to think carefully before casting their vote. It is inevitable that tribal/personal/emotional factors will slowly diminish as determinants of people's votes; instead, the ability of politicians to respond to people's real needs and concerns will become the important factors in how voters choose their representatives.

The new electoral law represents an important turning point in our modern political culture, especially as it follows the formation of some 20 political parties in the country. The combination of these two factors will force the start of a process that is vital for the development of a serious democratic system — the process of political accountability. While many voters will still choose their MPs on the basis of tribal/personal/emotional criteria, the parliamentary elections this autumn should see the start of an accountability dynamic by which candidates try to respond to voters' real life concerns and needs, especially in the economic sphere.

This shift from a traditional/tribal political culture to a more modern/pragmatic, issues-oriented political culture will take place over a period of many decades, and several generations. The central element in political governance is how well the political decision-making process responds to people's real life needs and

aspirations. The old slogans and the tribal affiliations that have defined Jordanian and Arab politics for many decades have frayed badly; today, they no longer sufficiently respond to the people's basic life needs in a context of rising economic and social pressures, in Jordan as throughout the Arab World. A new form of political governance is required to address the challenges of the decade and the early years of the next decade. That form will have to be built on the participatory and accountability principles that have now started to define our new political culture, as represented by organised parties that must respond to people's needs and an electoral system that compels people to choose their MPs with care.

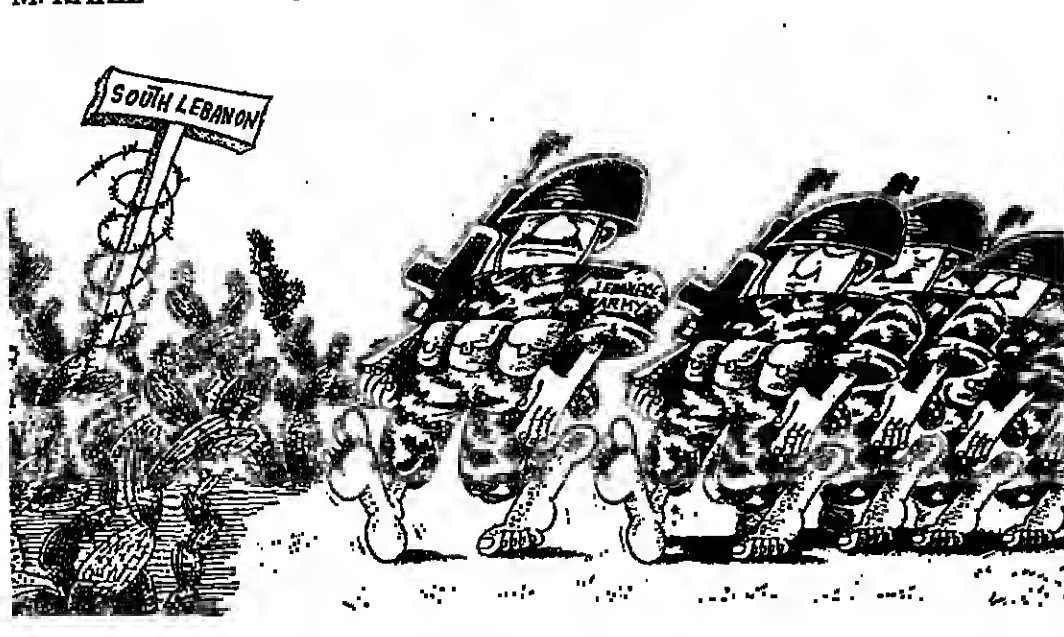
The political elite's opposition to the new electoral law hides a deeper reality that defines most of the Arab World. Simply put, the political power structures and the men that have dominated Arab governance for most of this century have limped into the mid-1990s with an almost total lack of credibility. This is most obvious in Jordan in the form of the old men who are vainly trying to use the advent of political parties to maintain their grip on power. The fellows who most vehemently oppose the new electoral law are the same ones who are desperately trying to figure out why the public is largely ignoring their new political parties.

In brief, most of the old men of Jordanian and Arab politics are largely discredited. They are suffering from an acute crisis of ability, confidence, credibility and legitimacy. Many of them have tried to use political parties to camouflage their failures, irrelevance and inadequacies, but the public is not fooled.

Whether from the right, centre or left, the old guard recognises that their former ways are neither convincing nor sustainable and therefore they would like to preserve the tribal/emotional mode of electoral politics as a last, desperate means of retaining power. It is not working, and it will not work, because the basic intelligence and rationality of the people, coupled with the humanitarian vision and historical perceptions of our top leadership, will force the country to rise to a higher, more responsive, level of political governance.

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M. KAHIL



Lebanon accord paves way for talks and violence

By Bradley Burston
Reuter

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — A U.S.-brokered ceasefire that ended Israel's blitz against Arab guerrillas last month appears to have ensured that Middle East peace talks will go on but so will South Lebanon's cycle of bloodshed.

Details of the unwritten accord have never been spelled out. But after nine Israeli soldiers were killed in guerrilla bombings in South Lebanon on Thursday, Israeli leaders lined up to say the attacks did not violate the terms of the ceasefire.

"It wasn't a breach of the agreement, it was a breach of peace," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said of the attacks, the deadliest in one day on Israeli soldiers since the Jewish state declared its "security zone" in South Lebanon in 1985.

Mr. Rabin ordered a limited air strike in reprisal and rejected as "the worst thing that could happen" opposition calls to suspend Arab-Israeli peace talks due to resume in Washington on Aug. 31.

Pro-Iranian Hizbollah guerrillas fired scores of rockets last month at northern Israeli towns. But most analysts saw Israel's week-long blitz as revenge for the killings of soldiers in the zone. Israeli and Hizbollah leaders have offered differing interpretations of the truce hammered out with Syria, Lebanon and Israel on the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's Middle East visit early this month.

Since the ceasefire was declared on July 31, Mr. Rabin and his aides have backed away from initial statements that the understandings guaranteed freedom of action for Israeli forces and their client South Lebanon Army (SLA) in the zone.

Now their view is more limited. "What we have said (to Hizbollah) is: 'Stop shooting (rockets) over the Galilee and we won't touch you,'" Mr. Peres said on Friday.

Senior aide Oded Ben-Ami said the accord meant the terms of engagement for Israel and Hizbollah had returned to past levels.

"Freedom of action" means the army and the SLA are free to

defend themselves in the security zone as they were before the events that led to operation accountability," Mr. Ben-Ami said.

Implicit in Israel's interpretation is that it must limit its response to targeting the perceived source of the violence, directing strikes against guerrilla bases and trying to avoid civilians.

More than 130 people were killed, 200,000 forced to flee, and numerous houses were reduced to rubble during the blitz.

Israeli leaders said they wanted the refugee exodus to put pressure on Beirut and Damascus to curb Hizbollah (Party of God). Hizbollah has vowed to resume rocket attacks at Israel if it again strikes civilian areas. The Lebanese army said guerrillas had a "natural right" to strike at Israeli forces occupying the south.

Mr. Rabin's measured response, to last week's attacks earned praise from Israel's closest ally, Washington, which had expressed concern for the human cost of the July blitz in Lebanon. Israel was apparently looking ahead to the peace talks with Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestinian representatives. Hizbollah opposes the talks,

which have ground on with little progress since they began 21 months ago. The parties are supposed to agree to a lasting peace in exchange for a return of Arab land occupied by the Israelis and self-rule for Palestinians.

Mr. Rabin reportedly told Mr. Christopher last week that if Syria, which Israel charges allows arms shipments to reach the guerrillas, did not restrain Hizbollah then Israel would.

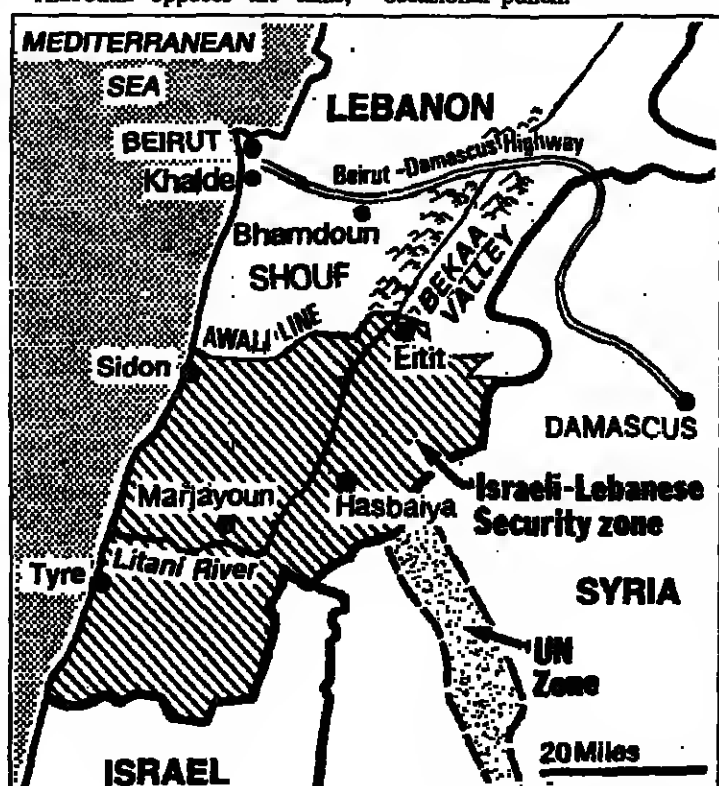
"This is a permanent message," Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said on Sunday. But he added that the demand on Syria was not a precondition to the talks.

Yona Tannenbaum, father of one of the soldiers killed on Thursday, criticised the understanding.

"The accord gives Hizbollah permission to do whatever it wants to Israeli soldiers in the zone as long as one Katyusha does not fall on civilians," he said.

But army chief Ehud Barak offered the view that it was simply back to normal along the most volatile area of Arab-Israeli confrontation.

"We are like boxers in a ring," he said. "One cannot avoid an occasional punch."



Middle Eastern kids in U.S. plant 'seeds of peace'

By Verena Dobnik
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Assaf, a Jewish teenager, lost his father to a bomb planted by Palestinians in the heart of Jerusalem. Fadi, a Palestinian who lives in Jerusalem, has relatives in jail for protesting Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

For three weeks in America, the two boys are among 46 Jews, Muslims and Christians getting together to sow the "seeds of peace."

They arrived in New York last week for the seeds of peace programme, which will also take them to a two-week summer camp in Maine and to Washington, D.C.

The programme's founder, John Wallach, said he is "bringing the next generation together, before they have been poisoned by the hostility of their region."

Can a summer camp in America make a difference?

Fadi, 15, said he has demonstrated against Israeli occupation of Nabulus in the West Bank.

Some of his relatives "got 100-year prison terms," he said in a quiet, resigned voice Saturday. "We want our land," the tall, dark youth said firmly, adding that "Israel should leave Gaza and the West Bank," which have been occupied by the Jewish state since the 1967 Middle East war.

"But basically, I disagree with both sides doing the killing," he added.

Assaf's father was killed in the 1980s by a bomb planted by Palestinian guerrillas in Jerusalem, said Hadera Rosenblum, a counselor for the Israeli delegation who works for her country's education ministry.

"But he still wants to turn hatred into peace," Ms. Rosenblum said.

The boy's last names were not released. Programme organisers said they want them to speak freely in the United States, without facing anger when they go home.

Terry Anderson, who was held hostage for seven years in Lebanon, told the youths at lunch Friday that as a result of the bonds forged here, the people their parents call enemies "will have a face."

"It's difficult to hate somebody you know," said Mr. Anderson, the former Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press who was held captive in Lebanon for seven years.

"There will be a lot of people pushing at you to continue the road of violence, bitterness, talking about revenge, talking about the wrongs your people have suffered," he warned the children. He urged them to "resist that pressure."

Twenty of the boys are Israelis, including four Arabs — a Druze and three Muslims. Eleven are Palestinians from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and 15 are from Egypt.

After being chosen for the programme, two 14-year-old Arab boys, Iyas and Nidal, invited the other 18 Israelis to a party in their village, Baka Al Garbia, near Hadera in central Israel.

And when the teens gathered in Tel Aviv to go to the United States, Ms. Rosenblum said: "The Arab and Jewish parents

were all hugging and kissing. Their sons were friends, after all."

Tamer, a 13-year-old from Cairo, said the violence in the Middle East is "not our fault." "It's the fault of our great-grandparents," he said. "And we must fix it. We're not old enough yet, but in the future..."

The seeds of peace programme

is funded by private contributions, with participants chosen by the governments of their countries.

This year's programme, the first, is limited to boys because Camp Powhatan in Oxford, Maine, which donated its facilities and staff, is for boys only. Next year, organisers hope to include girls.

LETTERS

No 'minorities' in Jordan

To the Editor:

Referring to your article "Minority votes may scramble strategies with introduction of change into elections" (Jordan Times, Aug. 19/20, 1993) I wish to stress the following:

Your front page bannerhead use of the word "minority" when referring to the Jordanian Christian, Circassian and Chechen citizens is rather provocative and in absolute conflict with the Constitution and the National Charter. As a Jordanian citizen, proud of his identity and belonging to this homeland, I believe that it is sinful to continue to divide the Jordanian people into majority and so-called minority.

The Constitution in its Article 6/1 says "Jordanians shall be equal before the law. There shall be no discrimination between them as regards their rights and duties on grounds of race, language or religion."

The National Charter also says "Jordanian men and women are equal before the law. There is to be no discrimination between them with respect to rights and duties, regardless of race, language, or religion in their practice of constitutional rights and commitment to the supreme interest of the state and the ethics of national action, to ensure that the resources and spiritual and material capabilities of Jordanian society are directed towards achieving the objectives of unity, progress and building the future."

Furthermore, the leader of this homeland, His Majesty the King, misses no single opportunity to state on clearly that all Jordanians are equal, regardless of their roots and origins. His Majesty never used the word "regardless of their religions..."

Dividing the Jordanians into Muslims and Christians, Arabs or Circassians, majority or minority is a scheme that was introduced to our society by the colonialist Sykes-Picot Agreement and the old Ottoman colonialism. Unfortunately, many of our politicians, writers and journalists continue to use this most vicious word, intentionally or unintentionally, regardless of its consequences.

I believe in Jordan, a homeland for all Jordanians, a homeland that does not have any kind of religious or ethnic minorities. Therefore, it is about time we cleanse up our media terminology, our laws and our practices from such despicable words.

Mu'in Kassis,
P.O. Box 3253,
Amman 11181.

Editor's note: True, Jordan's Constitution makes no distinction between Jordanians on the basis of religion or ethnic origin and treats them as equal citizens. Still, the fact remains that there are minorities here, as elsewhere in the world. The best evidence of this are the international norms that define minorities as those nationals of a country that belong to a different religion from the majority religion or belong to an ethnic origin that is also different from that of the majority. Recently, the United Nations committee charged with the mandate of monitoring the application of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which Jordan has ratified back in 1978, has clearly ruled that the Copts in Egypt constitute a minority in spite of the protestations of the Egyptian delegations that the Copts and Muslims of Egypt are one people and belong to the same nationality and ethnic origin.

Besides, the existence of minorities in any given state does not necessarily lead to disunity or breakup of a country. Recognition of minorities simply means the recognition of their peculiar background with a view to allowing for the expression of such a public affairs. There is nothing despicable or disgraceful about a country recognising the presence of a minority or more. Minorities can enrich countries in many ways, and they certainly

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and request and under special circumstances, letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

France continues with cautious rate easing

PARIS — France made its first move to ease its monetary policy in a move that has been seen as a signal that the country is beginning to ease its monetary policy. The move was made by the Banque de France, which has been seen as a signal that the country is beginning to ease its monetary policy.

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Fyodorov says Russia may need higher taxes soon

MOSCOW (R) — Russia may need a supplementary budget soon, raising taxes and curbing subsidies and other spending, Finance Minister Boris Fyodorov has said.

India plans to ease currency regulations

BOMBAY (R) — India is planning further liberalisation of currency regulations after successfully floating the rupee early this year, bankers said.

Now India is opening up its economy and dismantling four decades of socialist-style controls. But Indian importers and exporters continue to be governed by a complex web of exchange rules and directives that even bankers say they cannot always understand.

Chinese president facing unprecedented economic crisis

BEIJING (R) — Five months after taking office, President Jiang Zemin is facing an unprecedented economic crisis. The crisis is the result of a combination of factors, including a sharp decline in foreign investment and a loss of confidence in the government.

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Shanghai industry warned of belt-tightening

SHANGHAI (R) — Factories in Shanghai, China's largest industrial city, have been instructed to tighten their belts as national measures to curb an overheated economy take effect, the Shanghai Star reported.

Shanghai industry is facing a period of belt-tightening. Factories are being instructed to reduce production and cut costs in response to national economic policies.

Economists say new Japan overseas investment boom unlikely

TOKYO (R) — The soaring yen will eat into Japan's export revenues, but economists said it would not trigger a Japanese spending spree overseas as seen in the 1980s.

Economists say that a new boom in Japanese overseas investment is unlikely. The high value of the yen is expected to reduce the attractiveness of foreign investment.

Japan's economy is facing challenges that make a new overseas investment boom unlikely. High inflation and a strong yen are seen as major obstacles.

Trade and tourism boom in Dubai

DUBAI — Trade and tourism in Dubai are booming. The city has seen a significant increase in both areas, driven by its strategic location and growing infrastructure.

Dubai is experiencing a boom in trade and tourism. The city's position as a major hub in the Middle East is attracting more visitors and businesses.

The boom in trade and tourism in Dubai is a result of several factors, including improved infrastructure and a growing reputation as a business center.

Dubai's economy is thriving due to a combination of trade and tourism. The city is becoming a more prominent player in the global market.

The trade and tourism boom in Dubai is expected to continue for some time. The city's infrastructure and strategic location are key factors in its success.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

1. I THINK YOU TAKE THE SAME TO SERIOUSLY CHARLIE BROWN.

2. YOU PUT TOO MUCH STRESS ON YOURSELF.

3. YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT LUCY. THANKS FOR REMINDING ME.

4. TRY TO GET THE BALL OVER THE PLATE! YOU THINK WE'RE OUT HERE FOR THE FUN OF IT?

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NOLFE

SAUME

YORPTS

BURNEM

One look and I can tell you everything about her

WHAT EXPERIENCED GOSSIPS OFTEN DEFEND ON.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: THEIR

THE DAILY CROSSWORD by Audrey J. Koch

ACROSS

1 Umbrella, in England

5 Fragment

10 Head cook

14 Mother of Romulus and Remus

15 Balfour

16 Foyer

17 Judge's seat

18 Understands

19 Irrate

20 Maneuver

22 Chest

24 Young horse

25 Pacific Island

26 Rare element

29 Land inspector

33 Make tardy

34 Gay

35 Sleepy ornament

36 Ripening factor

37 Carrier

38 Sound of anguish

39 Grown-ups

40 Ballet moves

41 River to the Seine

42 Show bowing

44 Caused agony

45 College cheerer

46 Males

47 Beach shelter

50 Lawyer

54 Like a bump on

55 Gunpowder item

57 Architect

58 Sennen

59 "die a Parade"

60 Expert influence on

61 Danny or

62 Backrun

63 WWII battle site

DOWN

1 Scott

2 King of comedy

3 Chinese dynasty

4 Item for a baby

5 Sound in a miller

6 Fishing basket

7 Nurture

8 Total

9 Attitudes

10 Auto glitter

11 Looks

12 Fitzgerald

13 Bend

21 Name word

23 Possessive

25 Spiritual guides

26 Holding device

27 Champing at the bit

29 Office help

30 Have a craving

31 Jude

32 Hei up

34 For

37 Craftsman

38 Restaurant worker

40 San or Don

41 war bird

43 Medicated candy

44 Stormy

45 Allen or Martin

47 "The — of Amontillado"

48 Inner

49 Ossibus

50 Mighty mite

51 Balamander

52 Of an age

53 Ma of music

56 Dock workers org.

Horoscope not received

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51 Balamander

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56 Dock workers org.

Economy

[illegible]

Iran earns \$1.1 billion from carpet exports

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran earned \$1.1 billion from carpet exports last year, making carpet-weaving the country's most lucrative industry after oil, the trade minister said Monday.

Speaking at an international carpet fair which opened here Monday, Yahya Al Esfahani said Iran had exported \$3.107 billion worth of carpets in the past five years and was ahead of its goal of \$2.983 billion for the first five-year plan.

The head of Iran's Export Promotion Centre, Mostafa Hashemi, said six to eight million people were employed in the manufacture and sale of carpets in the country.

The English-language daily Tehran Times welcomed the holding of a carpet fair, but warned the industry was "facing many economic and organisational" problems.

"If we want to acquire a strong presence in the international carpet market, we should renovate the industry, and pay more attention to the working conditions of rural carpet-weavers," it said.

The official IRNA news agency said 140 companies in the carpet industry have participated in the week-long exhibition covering an area of 27,000 square metres (290,600 square feet).

Arab ship repair firm says '92 was bad year

MANAMA (AFP) — The Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard (ASRY) has said its performance was weak in 1992 because of a decline in demand caused by a sharp fall in shipping fees in the region.

In its annual report, the Manama-based company said its dry docks handled 40 vessels in 1992 although it has a capacity for 150 ships.

"The general results of the company in 1992 were affected by a decline in ship repair prices to an unreasonable level because of a sharp drop in shipping fees," ASRY Director Dajj Ibn Khalifa Al Khalifa wrote in the report obtained Monday. "The impact of this decline was so strong that it encouraged shipowners to postpone repair of their vessels. This depressed demand for ASRY services."

He gave no figures on the company's financial results for 1992 or its operations in previous years. But he predicted an improvement in demand this year after the completion of expansion projects.

The expansions covered two floating repair docks bought from the United States last year for \$60 million, ASRY sources said such docks could boost demand.

ASRY, whose dry docks have a capacity of 500,000 tonnes, is owned by the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), which groups Saudi Arabia and nine other Arab oil producers.

Finnish unemployment climbs over 20 per cent

HELSINKI (AFP) — Finnish unemployment hit 20.4 per cent in July, leaving over a half million people out of work, the ministry of labour has announced. At the end of July, 519,300 people were without jobs, an increase of 23,201 people since June. In July 1992, 390,000 people were unemployed, corresponding to 15.1 per cent of the population. Meanwhile, three per cent of the work force, or 86,000 people, were occupied with training and other government schemes to combat unemployment. According to prognoses done by financial ex-

Revenue sharing blocks GCC bid to unify customs

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Arab states have made headway in their bid to unify customs tariffs on imports but distribution of revenues from such taxes is blocking a final agreement, official sources said.

Bahrain, which imposes the highest duty in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), is demanding compensation for lowering its tariff to bring it in line with a common customs mechanism, the sources said.

"Bahrain has the right to demand compensation, because it will be seriously affected by the joint GCC tariff," said a Gulf official, who requested anonymity. "As you know, Bahrain relies heavily on tax revenues."

Customs tariffs in Bahrain generally exceed 20 per cent while the proposed GCC tariff ranges from eight to 10 per cent. Countries such as the United

Arab Emirates will largely benefit as its tariffs do not exceed four per cent.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top crude exporter, Kuwait and Oman also impose high tariffs but they are mainly designed to protect local products. In the remaining GCC member Qatar, tariffs are relatively low.

A joint GCC tariff has been under discussion for more than eight years within plans to create a common Gulf market, as laid down in an economic agreement signed by the alliance in 1982.

Such a tariff is one of the conditions set by the GCC's main economic partner, the European Community, for signing a free trade agreement.

GCC finance and economy ministers are due to meet in Riyadh early next month to discuss the proposed common tariff

before presenting it to an annual summit in December.

"The discussions will focus on a mechanism for customs tariffs on foreign imports, tariffs on imports from member states and protection duties," a Gulf official said. "But Bahrain is still insisting on compensation before the implementation of the joint tariff."

Unlike the other members, Bahrain heavily depends on taxes for its income as its produces only 40,000 barrels per day of oil.

According to official Bahraini figures, it accounted for less than 30 per cent of the Gulf island's total revenues of around \$1.5 billion in 1992.

One of the proposals to resolve the problem is to collect the taxes on imports in all GCC states and redistribute them in a way that will enable members with higher tariffs to make up for part of the loss.

Qatar expanding petrochemical output

ABU DHABI (AFP)—Qatar is expanding its petrochemical production in projects costing 420 million Qatari riyals (\$115.3 million), the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily *Al Khaleej* reported.

The projects, to be completed by 1995, would boost output of ethylene by 170,000 tonnes to 500,000 tonnes per year and of polyethylene by 175,000 tonnes.

to 360,000 tonnes per year, the paper said in a report from Doha. Qatar, a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, produces about 350,000 barrels per day of oil and has embarked on a multi-billion-dollar gas project at its giant North Field.

Saudi Arabia, the world's leading oil exporter, and other Gulf states have also launched expan-

Al Khaleej said Qatar earned 199 million riyals (\$54.6 million) in 1992 from the sale of petrochemicals to Indonesia, China, India, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Italy and other countries.

Financial Markets **Jordan Times**
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Currency	New York Close Jan. 20/1/93	Tokyo Close Jan. 23/1/93
Sterling Pound	1.5149	1.5146
Deutsche Mark	1.0745	1.0777
Swiss Franc	1.4670	1.4710
French Franc	5.8375	5.8633**
Japanese Yen	104.20	103.35
European Currency Unit	1.1420	1.1390**

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.72	3.31	3.50
Sterling Pound	5.75	5.78	5.43	5.50
Deutsche Mark	6.75	6.50	6.31	6.93
Swiss Franc	4.56	4.50	4.37	4.73
French Franc	7.37	7.00	6.65	5.67
Japanese Yen	2.98	2.57	2.75	2.85
European Currency Unit	6.05	7.44	6.94	6.25

Precious Metals			Date: 03-01-1993		
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	373.45	7.35	Silver	4.79	0.105

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6910	0.6930
Sterling Pound	1.6337	1.6339
Deutsche Mark	0.4111	0.4133
Swiss Franc	0.4689	0.4712
French Franc	0.1180	0.1180
Japanese Yen	0.6977	0.6710
Dutch Guilder	0.3656	0.3674
Swedish Krona	0.3866	0.0870
Italian Lira	2.0436	0.0438
Belgian Franc	0.01937	0.01967

Other Currencies		Date:
Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8104	1.8400
Lebanese Lira	0.039540	0.040620
Saudi Riyal	0.1840	0.1860
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.4550	2.3200
Qatari Riyal	0.1873	0.1890
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.7650	1.8180
UAE Dirham	0.1873	0.1890
Greek Drachma	0.2965	0.3355
Cypriot Pound	1.3350	1.3650

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

U.S. \$1,000 costs	1,3210/15	Canadian dollar
	1,6790/00	Deutschemarks
	1,8880/90	Dutch guilders
	1,4735/45	Swiss francs
	35,40/48	Belgian francs
	5,8550/50	French francs
	1587,0/8.5	Italian lire
	103,50/60	Japanese yen
	8,0314/51	Swedish crowns
	7,2740/94	Norwegian crowns
	6,8880/08	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1,5120/30	
One ounce of gold	\$373,60/374.10	

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U.N. prepares to send aid convoy to Mostar Muslims

MOSTAR (R) — The United Nations Monday prepared to send food and medicine to besieged Muslims in Mostar, but the Bosnian Croats controlling access to the city were still refusing permission for convoys to enter.

The U.N. hopes to deliver 130 tonnes of supplies Wednesday to the Muslim side of the city in southwest Bosnia, where 55,000 people are trapped. Food, water and medical supplies are scarce.

A U.N. advance convoy Sunday made a small delivery of medical supplies to the makeshift hospital in the Muslim quarter which is struggling to treat patients without anaesthetic, electricity or running water.

U.N. officials were holding fresh negotiations Monday with the Bosnian Croat Forces (HVO) who control the access routes into Mostar to gain entry to the Muslim sector, but reported little progress.

"We very much hope that Wednesday will be the day that

the HVO finally decides they are no longer going to be bloody-minded and they will allow us to take a convoy through," said Lyndall Sachs, spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

She said the price of taking aid to the Muslims may be to deliver an equal amount to the Croat-held part of the city, which still needed help, although less than the Muslim sector.

The Muslim-held part of the west bank of the Neretva River has been reduced to rubble by fighting between Muslim-led government forces and HVO.

Most Muslim civilians have moved to the east bank, joining residents crowded into buildings on streets further away from the constant threat of mortar and sniper fire. Even here, there are many bombed-out buildings.

The quarter was relatively quiet Monday morning, after almost continuous sniping and shelling over the past few days.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic in Sarajevo appealed to the United Nations Security Council for help in getting emergency aid to the Muslim-held quarter, describing the siege as a "true catastrophe".

In a letter to the U.N., Mr. Izetbegovic said Bosnian Croat Forces had conducted an ethnic cleansing campaign to clear the area of Muslims and urged that the southwestern city be declared a U.N. safe area similar to Sarajevo.

Amid the fighting, Serb, Croat and Muslim assemblies are due to meet separately this week to discuss a proposed peace agreement that emerged last week from peace talks in Geneva.

The Bosnian Republic's parliament will meet Friday to debate the plan, but Mr. Izetbegovic said he would tell the representatives to reject the compromise agreement.

"I will not propose that they vote for such a proposal," he told

reporters Sunday. If further talks fail, the Bosnian president said differences would have to be settled in combat.

Government army officers dismissed the peace map that would carve Bosnia into three ethnic mini-states.

"If the government decides to accept the plan there would be a military coup," said an officer who identified himself as Nezir, deputy commander of the 17th Brigade in the central Bosnian city of Travnik.

Croat and Serb leaders have said the plan was the best compromise that could be achieved.

"I will fight for acceptance of the plan," Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic told Reuters Television. He said if the war continued, the Muslims would be held responsible.

A source in the Bosnian Serb self-styled parliament in Pale outside Sarajevo, said the assembly expected to meet Saturday and Sunday.

Mandela: Government lacks will to end unrest

JOHANNESBURG (R) — African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela said Monday that South Africa's white minority government did not have the will or desire to end the violence sweeping the country.

The ANC chief said Sunday's massacre of 12 blacks at a beauty parlor was part of a bloody campaign to stop the transition to black rule.

"We have suggested ways to the government to end the violence. It is clear the government has either lost control of the security forces or elements in the security forces are doing what the government wants them to do," Mr. Mandela told reporters.

"It is clear there are elements determined to derail the peace process. We must expect this to continue until a new, democratic and legitimate government is in place."

The Scaw Metals' factory dead were among at least 35 people killed in weekend violence throughout South Africa.

Eleven people died in the East Rand townships of Kriel, Tokozo and Voorsburg 'espionage' the presence of large numbers of police and soldiers.

At least 12 were killed in Natal province, including a black man and woman riddled by bullets in a highway ambush near Estcourt in the Natal midlands.

At least 900 people have been killed in political violence since early July when multi-party negotiations set April 27 as the date for South Africa's first all-race elections. Nearly half have died in Johannesburg's satellite townships.

The ANC demands a multi-party national peacekeeping force be set up urgently to restore peace to townships ravaged by factional fighting.

It charges hardline elements in the white-led security forces are fomenting violence to divide blacks and perpetuate apartheid — an accusation vigorously denied by the police and army.

Deputy Law and Order Minister Gert Myburgh Monday visited wounded victims of the factory attack at Germiston south of Johannesburg and said police would vigorously hunt the three black gunmen.

He appealed to hostel-dwellers not to seek revenge for the killing, one of the most savage incidents since black gunmen killed 11 people, most of them white, at St. James' Church in Cape Town last month.

The Germiston gunmen, armed with AK-47 rifles, opened fire on Xhosa-speaking workers and their wives who were holding an outdoor meeting. The attack took place near where gunmen

stopped a mini-bus taxi shot dead seven Zulus last month.

Most of South Africa's township warfare is between predominantly Xhosa-speaking ANC supporters and followers of the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party.

The government offered a 250,000 rand (\$80,000) reward for information leading to the arrest of the factory killers — the same as put up over the Cape Town church killing. The ANC had demanded the police treat the factory slaughter on the same level as the killing of the whites.

Tony Harris, managing director of Scaw Metals, a subsidiary of the Anglo American Corporation, said in a statement: "The hostel has a non-political profile. Those living in this hostel comprise different ethnic groups and include supporters of several different political parties."

Clashes erupt in 2nd Azeri breakaway region

MOSCOW (AFP) — Troops loyal to a renegade Azerbaijani colonel who has declared independence in the southern Azeri region of Talysko-Mugansk exchanged gunfire with pro-government demonstrators Monday, the Azeri News Agency, Turan, reported.

Turan said there were dead and wounded on both sides. Quoting the governing Popular Front, the agency said followers of Colonel Aliakram Gumbatov opened fire on demonstrators who stormed a local government building where he was staying in the region's main city of Lenkoran. The protesters fired back, it said.

The Azeri Interior Ministry told the agency the protesters gained control of the building and Col. Gumbatov was reported missing, but it had no further details.

Several Azerbaijani political parties loyal to the authorities in Baku demonstrated Sunday against the separatist drive by Col. Gumbatov, who on Aug. 7 declared the Talysko-Mugansk Republic a sovereign nation.

The region has about 700,000 inhabitants spread along the Iranian border and the Caspian Sea. Its capital, Lenkoran, has a population of about 126,000, Turan said.

Nigeria signals tough stance against union

LAGOS (R) — Nigeria's military government said it planned to restructure the main trade union — an apparent response to the union's decision to call a strike if President Ibrahim Babangida does not quit power by his Friday deadline.

Information Minister Uche Chukwumerije said in the capital Abuja the plan was to make membership of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) voluntary in line with the International Labour Organisation's standards, the News Agency of Nigeria reported.

Voluntary membership would severely reduce the funds the NLC gets through a compulsory check-off system.

The 3.5-million-strong NLC, and the 50,000-strong oil workers group Nupeng have threatened to strike from the weekend unless General Babangida surrenders power by Aug. 27 when he had repeatedly pledged he would hand over to civilians.

Nupeng, whose strike could cripple crude oil exports, Nigeria's main source of foreign exchange, said power should be handed to Moshood Abiola, the muslim millionaire businessman believed to have won last June's annulled presidential poll.

Mr. Chukwumerije, said the government would not support the strike.

that the NLC ultimatum was mass-terminated by a section of the congress in the southwestern part of the country, an apparent reference to Mr. Abiola's home region.

Nigeria Monday entered one of the most crucial weeks in its history with no indication how Gen. Babangida, in power since 1983, planned to resolve the crisis that has engulfed the country since he cancelled the June 12 election.

"This is the week that makes or breaks Nigeria," said lawyer Michael Otiang as fears mounted that the political crisis could erupt into widespread violence in Africa's most populous nation.

Mr. Abiola said Gen. Babangida would not leave office voluntarily.

"Babangida has no intention of honouring his many promises to hand over power to a democratically-elected civilian government," he said in statements faxed to Reuters from London, where he has been rallying support for his claim to the presidency.

Mr. Abiola said he had delayed returning to Nigeria on the advice of family and friends that it was not safe but pledged he would be back by Aug. 27. "I will be back on Nigerian soil by the 27th. I will keep my fate with destiny," he said.

Hosokawa apologises for war; will tackle corruption

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, making his first policy speech to parliament Monday, made a formal apology for his country's wartime atrocities in Asia but held back from offering compensation.

Mr. Hosokawa, who rode to power on an anti-graft platform, also pledged a crackdown on political corruption.

"I would thus like to take this opportunity to express our profound remorse and apologies for the fact that past Japanese actions, including aggression and colonial rule, caused unbearable suffering and sorrow for so many people," Mr. Hosokawa said.

Japan would contribute "more than ever before to world peace," he added.

Leaders of previous administration under the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which lost its 38-year hold on power to Mr. Hosokawa's multi-party alliance, steadfastly refused to say in parliament that Japan fought a war of aggression.

When necessary, they offered vaguely-worded apologies to Asian countries, fuelling suspi-

cion that Japan felt little, if any, remorse for its wartime conduct. The government's new willingness to face Japan's past has already stirred demands by Asian war victims. Over 13,000 Indonesians who worked as forced labourers during the 1942-45 Japanese occupation have registered to seek compensation.

Taiwanese, South Korean and Malaysian women forced to serve as wartime prostitutes for Japanese soldiers have said they will seek compensation by filing lawsuits in Tokyo.

Foreign Minister Tsutomu Hata said last week that, while Japan considered it had already settled the reparations issue through bilateral or multilateral treaties, the government could consider individual claims.

Mr. Hosokawa, who took office two weeks ago, made no mention of the issue of compensation, however.

Setting out government policy, Mr. Hosokawa repeated election pledges to clean up political corruption, symbolised by the scandal-ridden LDP, by the year's end.

Cambodian leaders get lavish Hanoi welcome

HANOI (R) — Cambodia's new co-presidents, Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen, received a lavish official welcome in Hanoi Monday when they arrived to shore up relations with Vietnam, their country's most powerful neighbour.

The fate of ethnic Vietnamese residents of Cambodia who have fled attacks by Khmer Rouge Communist guerrillas and are stranded in the border area will be high on the agenda of their talks with Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, according to Hanoi officials.

A United Nations spokesman in Cambodia Monday said Khmer Rouge guerrillas were suspected of killing two Vietnamese fishermen whose battered and bullet-riddled bodies were found in central Cambodia at the weekend, the latest in a new spate of anti-Vietnamese violence.

The Cambodian leaders will also be seeking to establish a personal relationship with Kiet and other Vietnamese officials, as they already have with the heads of Cambodia's other neighbours, Thailand and Laos, in visits over the past month.

Moscow events cast shadow over autumn offensive

MOSCOW (R) — A bullet rips through a minister's office, a top anti-corruption official says he is the target of a murder plot by the chief prosecutor, a second minister steps down accusing "mafia bands" of making a push for Kremlin power.

Recent events in Moscow provide an increasingly sinister backdrop to President Boris Yeltsin's struggle with Russia's conservative parliament.

As Mr. Yeltsin prepares his approaching "autumn offensive" against the hardliners the shadow of corruption is growing, longer, with both sides slinging accusations at each other.

Foreign Trade Minister Sergei Glazev resigned at the weekend, declaring what all hardliners had long said: "Mafia bands" feeding on corruption were nosing their way to power. He accused two close Yeltsin allies of hounding him from office.

The mafia accusations, this time from an insider rather than a nationalist or Communist foe of Mr. Yeltsin, may cut deep.

"At a time when consolidation is vital in presidential and government structures, talk about infighting in the cabinet rather than admissions of professional errors is to be deeply regretted," Fore-



An elderly man pulls his belongings on a luggage trolley as he walks by a parking lot full of car wrecks in Sarajevo (AFP photo)

Russia rejects Lithuanian mediation call

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia rejected Monday a Lithuanian call for mediation in the dispute over the Baltic republic's claim for compensation for 50 years of Soviet occupation.

"The attempts to put pressure (on Russia) by using third countries will produce only a negative response," said Vyacheslav Kostikov, the spokesman for President Boris Yeltsin, quoted by Interfax.

Earlier the Vilnius government condemned Moscow's decision Sunday to halt its withdrawal of the 2,500 Russian troops in Lithuania and to break off talks

over the pullout.

"Negotiations are the only civilised way to solve problems and the alternative means of political, military and economic pressure are unacceptable," said the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry in a statement carried by Interfax.

Mr. Kostikov dismissed Lithuania's demand for \$146 billion in compensation as "unfounded."

Democratic Russia has no responsibility for the Stalinist era, of which Russia was equally a victim, Mr. Kostikov said.

A Lithuanian-Russian summit, due to have taken place Monday

in Moscow, was postponed indefinitely.

The Russian Foreign Ministry has said the withdrawal, due to be completed by Aug. 31, would continue, but "with a delay suitable to Russia, of which the Lithuanians will be informed."

Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas said Sunday he would appeal to international mediators for help in the dispute.

The prevailing mood in Vilnius Monday was that the Brazauskas government, which was elected in May on a ticket of improving relations with Moscow, had mishandled the affair.

Rightist Nicaraguans free 20 hostages

EL ZUNIGANO, Nicaragua (R) — Rightist guerrillas released Sunday 20 of the 38 Nicaraguan government officials and leftist Sandinista politicians they have been holding hostage since Thursday, officials said.

But as the captives walked free in this northern village, a second hostage standoff continued in the capital Managua where leftist gunmen have seized the country's vice-president and a score of other top politicians.

Francisco Mayorga, spokesman for a negotiating commission seeking the release of the hostages near this remote mountain village in northern Nicaragua, said the remaining 18 hostages held by the rightists could also be freed within hours.

The rightist guerrillas, led by former combat rebel Jose Angel Talavera, Alias El Chacal (The Jackal), "announce the immediate handover of the people

held, with 20 people today. Foreseeing the handover of the rest in the coming hours," an accord read to reporters by Mr. Mayorga said.

He said the accord was not signed by Mr. Talavera but by his brother and top lieutenant, Salvador Talavera, after consultations with El Chacal.

A Renier correspondent saw the 20 people, 17 soldiers and three government officials, arrive in the nearby town of Quilali following their release.

The release could be a major advance towards resolving the two hostage standoffs, which have highlighted the bitter post-war divisions lingering in this nation of just over three million people, one of the poorest in the Americas.

In Managua, leftist gunmen are holding hostage Vice-President Virgilio Godoy, about eight journalists and a score of conservative

politicians of the National Opposition Union (UNO).

The Managua gunmen have said they will not release their captives until all those held by the former contras are freed.

The leader of the Managua group of leftist gunmen said earlier Sunday that two hostages would be released on health grounds, but it was unclear when Mr. Godoy was not among those to be released.

In an explosion of anger earlier Sunday, Commando 31's men fired shots in the air and at the roof of a nearby building where they said they saw snipers. No one was hurt and police did not return fire.

They also forced UNO leader Alfredo Cesar and other hostages up against the windows of the party's headquarters in their underwear, as human shields against a feared police attack which never came.

Angolan forces retake eastern town

SAO TOME (Agencies) — Angolan government forces have retaken the town of Camanogue in eastern Angola from UNITA rebels, Angolan state radio said Monday.

The radio, monitored in the island state of Sao Tome and Principe, said government troops inflicted dozens of casualties on UNITA fighters in the weekend battle for Camanogue, 52 kilometres from the previously besieged city on Luena.

Camanogue is on the road north from Luena, capital of Mexico Province, to Saurimo, capital of Lunda South province, which has also been under rebel siege for several months.

The World Food Programme (WFP) resumed aid flights to Luena and Saurimo last week. It had suspended them after UNITA fired at a U.N. plane in northwestern Angola in mid-July. UNITA (the National Union for the Total Independence of

Angola) occupied Camanogue last October when it went back to war against the ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola).

The two sides signed agreements to end 16 years of civil war in 1991 but UNITA took up arms again last year after losing elections to the MPLA.

State radio and UNITA radio both reported that government and rebel representatives were due to take part in a series of meetings in the Zimbabwean capital Harare Monday with the aim of resurrecting the peace process.

The radios said the U.N. special representative in Angola, Alouine Blondin Beye, Angolan Foreign Minister Venancio de Moura and UNITA's acting secretary for foreign affairs, Paulo Lukamba Gato, would also meet Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe.

Mr. Beye and Mr. De Moura

flew into Harare at the weekend.

Mr. Beye's predecessor, Briton Margaret Anstee, organised U.N.-sponsored peace talks in the Ivory Coast capital Abidjan earlier this year, but they collapsed after six weeks when UNITA refused to sign a peace protocol which the government accepted.

Mr. Beye said Sunday that no date had yet been set for a new round of peace talks, which were expected to start in Harare or another African capital by Sept. 15 at the latest.

The U.N. Security Council meets on Sept. 15 to review the Angolan situation. It has threatened UNITA with sanctions if it does not honour the 1991 peace agreements by then.

"The Angolan army's push against UNITA positions in central and southern regions this month has shaken the rebel movement, the Jornal de Angola newspaper said here Monday.

Michael Jackson launches Asian tour

BANGKOK (AFP) — U.S. pop star Michael Jackson launched the Asian leg of his world tour here Monday with a press conference at which he sang not a single note, spoke only nine words and left hundreds of female fans screaming his name. The 34-year-old Jackson rode onto the stage of a hotel ballroom in a local three-wheeled conveyance known as a "tuk-tuk," which was decorated with the logo of the soft drink company that is sponsoring his Dangerous tour. Thai girls in native dress strewed flower petals in his path as the singer stepped onto the stage, and dozens in the crowd shouted "Michael, Michael," trying to get his attention. Throughout the 45-minute media event, loudspeakers blared one Jackson hit after another. Then Tony Ilsey, president of Pepsi-Cola Asia Pacific, presented Jackson with a check for two million baht (\$80,000) for the singer's Heal the World Foundation. Part of the money will go to charities in Thailand, Mr. Ilsey said. Asked to say a "few" words, Jackson said: "I love you, and thank you very, very much," as scores of photographers — most of them standing on chairs — snapped his picture. Jackson's tour began last summer in Europe. Details of the Asian leg have been kept shrouded in secrecy, but he is known to be heading for Singapore after Bangkok and will also appear in Taipei.

L.A. county coroner opens little shop of horrors

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Los Angeles County Coroner's Office has its own little shop of horrors where it markets the morbid — from personalised tags to skeleton tote bags. There's even a beach towel with a chalk body outline. The gift shop called Skeletons In The Closet also sells T-shirts, coffee mugs and other morose souvenirs. Proceeds go to a programme aimed at scaring youths out of drinking and driving. "Bodies and death are our business. We're just trying to take advantage of it," said Marilyn Lewis, the coroner's new marketing programme coordinator. The 54 personalised tags, used to identify cadavers, are "the real things," she said. The marketing push has raised \$15,000 over the past year for a programme that brings convicted 16- to 21-year-old drunken drivers to the morgue for a firsthand look at the deadly effects of roadway intoxication. "It seems to have a very definite and real impact on people," said Chris Harvey, who oversees the tours. "They leave with their eyes wide open and a different outlook on life."

5 Filipino prisoners escape jail using guitar

MANILA (R) — Five Filipino prisoners broke out of jail Monday by using the strings of a guitar to saw off the thin metal bars of their detention cell in Manila's Paranaque district, police said. Some of the prisoners pretended to play the guitar and sang songs to cover up the pre-dawn escape. The window opened to a street where witnesses saw the five prisoners get into a van heading for a residential area near the financial district of Makati, police investigator Maximo Perez said by telephone. The five, ranging in age from 30 to 40, had been jailed for crimes ranging from illegal possession of drugs to robbery. Police launched a manhunt for the prisoners.

China cracks biggest pornography case since 1949

PEKING (R) — Police in north China have cracked the biggest pornography case since the Communist state was set up in 1949, seizing 680,000 salacious magazines, the official Press and Publishing Journal said Monday. The case involved five printing factories in the provinces of Hebei and Shandong, which in the past two years produced 850,000 illegal publications, including the pornographic magazines. After a shipment of magazines was uncovered in Hebei, police arrested the chief of one of the factories and two of its assistants. The factory, set up without a licence in February, had 45 staff, including 20 women — the youngest under 13, the newspaper said.

Venice gondoliers repay fleeced French tourists

VENICE, Italy (R) — Remorseful Venetian gondoliers clubbed together to pay back a French couple charged an extortionate 500,000 lire (\$340) for an hour's ride along the city's canals, Italian newspapers reported Monday. The couple, from Brittany, had filed a formal complaint before they went home earlier this month. They received a full refund from the gondoliers and a note expressing "profound regrets" at the incident.

World Cup Bolivia about to qualify; Brazil win

By the Associated Press
BOLIVIA VIRTUALLY clinched its first World Cup berth since 1950 while Brazil and Argentina both took the lead in their respective groups with victories Sunday as South American World Cup qualifying started to look the way most had predicted.

The Bolivians, the surprise of the tournament, broke open a 1-0 game at halftime with six goals in the second half, two each by Milton Melgar and Marco Etcheverry to rout Venezuela 7-0 and earn their fifth victory in as many games.

Outscoring opponents 20-2, Bolivia has 10 points, four better than Brazil and six better than Ecuador and Uruguay. Bolivia, Brazil and Ecuador have three games remaining. Uruguay has four. Only the top two teams from South American Group B will qualify for the 24-team World Cup field in the United States.

Brazil claimed second place in the group with a 2-0 victory over Ecuador and Argentina moved back ahead of Colombia and into the group with a 2-1 victory over Peru.

Colombia slipped behind on goal differential with a 1-1 draw at Paraguay.

In Europe, Martin Dahlin saved Sweden with France and keeping both atop Group 6.

Bolivia's victory set off celebrations throughout the country and La Paz streets were filled with fans waving flags and banners.

It was Bolivia's second rout over Venezuela, having won 7-1 on July 18 in both teams' openers in Puerto Ordaz, Venezuela.

In Sao Paulo, Brazil, Bebeto scored one in the first half and then set up Dunga for another in the second in a match that may not please all of Brazil's critics, but should at least tame them for the moment.

With a defence that didn't require goalkeeper Claudio Taffarel to make any saves, Brazil improved to 2-2-1, ahead of Ecuador and Uruguay in the race for the second of two Group B berths.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina Gabriel Batistuta and Ramon Medina Bello scored five minutes apart in the first half to pace Argentina.

Batistuta gave Argentina the lead in the 33rd minute and Medina Bello added his in the 38th to the delight of the capacity crowd of 50,000 at River Plate Stadium.

World Athletics Championships China sweeps women's distance events Russia; U.S. win relays as competition ends

STUTTGART (AP) — The United States' magnificent quarter-mile sprinters brought the World Athletics Championships to a glorious end Sunday with a world record run in the relay.

And but for a photo-finish decision which went the other way, the Americans would have won all four relays on the final day.

Gail Devereaux, had missed her third gold medal when Inna Privalova closed her eyes and beat her in a photo-finish to the 4x100 relay.

Michael Johnson, the individual gold medalist, anchored the 4x400m win in 2min 54.29sec.

That sliced 1.34 sec off the standard set in last year's Olympics when the only difference was that Steve Lewis was running. Butch Reynolds, individual silver medalist, replaced him here for his first gold medal since anchoring the U.S. team in the 1987 World Championships. Andrew Valmon and Quincy Watts ran the first two legs.

Johnson was unofficially timed at 42.98sec for the last leg, beating the previous fastest of 43.1sec, set by Watts in the second leg in Barcelona.

That took the United States' medals to 13 gold, seven silver and six bronze.

Jeal Miles, the women's 400m champion, won her second gold by anchoring the U.S. relay team.

Privalova's strong finish



U.S. sprinter Michael Malone right passes the baton to Natasha Kaiser-Brown during the women's 4x400 relay race (AFP photo)



The U.S. 4x400 metre relay team (left to right) Butch Reynolds, Andrew Valmon, Quincy Watts and Michael Johnson pose in front of the scoreboard after winning gold and setting a new world record (AFP photo)

Linford Christie, 100m champion, and Colin Jackson, 110m hurdles winner, collected silvers as the British 4x400m relay squad finished behind the United States.

Britain's other gold medalist, intermediate hurdler Sally Gunnell, won a silver in the women's 4x400m relay.

Jackson and Gunnell, along with Russian triple jumper Ana Biryukova, were the only other world record-breakers at these championships.

A world junior record for the women's 10,000m was erased when China's Wang Junxia revealed she was born in 1973 and not in 1976.

World record-holder Javier Sotomayor added the world championship to his Olympic title in the high jump for Cuba's second gold medal.

Ismael Quintero had won the women's high jump on Saturday. Tina Hattestad won Norway's only gold medal in the women's javelin.

Merlene Ottey, denied the 100m title by a questionable reading of the photo-finish, won her first championship gold medal in 13 years of top competition in the 200m. She added a bronze in Sunday's sprint relay but could not say if, at 33, she would go to Gothenburg for the next championships in two years' time.

Carl Lewis, involved in two of the most memorable highlights of the Tokyo Championships, failed to win anything here but refused to admit a glorious career was over.

His 100m world record win in Tokyo and a marvellous long jump battle with Mike Powell, who eventually wrote Bob Beamon's name out of the record charts, may not have been quite matched here but standards as a whole were higher.

The medals were more widely spread as they went to athletes from 36 nations against 29 in

1993. Only two of his 14 career titles have come between July and December.

The fourth-ranked Becker, who won \$75,905, was hoping to win his third title of 1993. Even though he lost, he was encouraged by his performance.

"I've come from a real first-round struggle to the final where I was playing really good against Jim," said Boris. "I think this was probably one of my best tournaments all year, even though I didn't win it. Just one week before the last grand slam of the year, it is very encouraging."

Graf beats Capriati: Steffi Graf won her fifth consecutive tournament on Sunday, coming back from a mid-match battering to beat American Jennifer Capriati 6-1 6-3 to win the \$750,000 Canadian Open.

The top seeded Graf earned \$150,000 for her victory at the hard court event and has now won five tournaments in a row dating back to the German Open in May.

Graf, ranked number one in the world, took the first set easily, winning five consecutive games after both players had held their opening serves.

"I couldn't have played much better in the first set," Graf said, "my forehead was working incredibly well."

In the second set, the sixth-seeded Capriati, capitalising on a rash of errors from Graf's wounded forehead, turned things around and took just 24 minutes to record a rare love set (6-0) against the 24-year-old German.

The last was in May in the third round of the German Open in Berlin when her compatriot Sabine Hack won the first set 6-0 before losing 6-3 6-2.

Capriati, ranked nine, lost her serve in the opening game of the final set and soon found herself trailing 1-5 as Graf regained the form she had displayed in the first set.

Capriati, playing with renewed vigour and enthusiasm, which she attributed in part to not having the distraction of her studies because she is on summer holidays before her last year of school, was pleased with her performance.

"I'm very happy with the way I played to get to the final," she said.

Medvedev beats Korda: In New Haven, Connecticut, Andrei Medvedev, an 18-year rising star

from Ukraine beat Petr Korda of Czechoslovakia 7-5 6-4 to win the \$1.04 million Volvo International tennis tournament Sunday.

Medvedev, the fifth-seed who won \$152,000, was helped by Korda's 42 unforced errors. It was the third singles title of the year for the young power-hitter from Kiev.

A crowd of 11,347 saw the 78-minute match at Connecticut Tennis Centre.

Medvedev was down 3-5 and three set points in the first set before turning things around. Korda held a 5-2 lead in that set.

"I came out with my legs feeling sore and I wasn't running very well," said Medvedev, the youngest winner in the tournament's 21-year history. "And I knew the only chance I had to win was to serve well and to run."



Katrin Krabbe Krabbe banned for 2 years

STUTTGART (AP) — The International Amateur Athletic Federation banned German sprinter Katrin Krabbe for two years effective Sunday for bringing the sport into disrepute, track sources said.

Krabbe, winner of the 100 and 200 at the 1991 World Championships, was suspended for four years after failing an out-of-competition drug test last year.

In contradiction of IAAF sanctions, the German Federation DLV reduced the suspension to one year. The DLV said it had no provisions for out-of-competition testing in its own rules and that German courts don't accept a four-year ban.

In May, the IAAF Council said Krabbe would remain suspended until it decided whether the case needed to go to arbitration.

The German Federation has been pushing the IAAF Council to make a final decision or take the case to arbitration.

The avoid arbitration, the council decided to suspend Krabbe for two years for bringing the sport into disrepute, but not on doping charges. No arbitration can be called in case an athlete is suspended on disrepute charges, said the sources, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The ban means Krabbe will not be able to compete at the 1995 World Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden, just as she missed the worlds that ended Sunday in Stuttgart.

Thorsten Heuser, Krabbe's legal adviser, said he would put pressure on the German Federation to request arbitration. But Heuser spoke before it became clear that Krabbe was being banned on disrepute charges, not for doping.

German track sources have said that the IAAF Council feels it would lose its case before an arbitration panel.

Krabbe already won an earlier doping case that went to arbitration. The IAAF two-year ban also covers two other German sprinters, Grit Breuer and Manuela Derr.

The sources said Krabbe and the two other sprinters had admitted taking clenbuterol, and had made hostile statements directed at the IAAF, providing the reason to ban them for bringing the sport into disrepute.

Krabbe admitted taking asthma medicine which contained clenbuterol, but said she didn't know it was illegal. The IAAF considers clenbuterol a banned substance.

When the German Federation banned Krabbe for a year, it said she was guilty of "medication abuse."

The German ban was to have expired on Aug. 14, when the World Championships began in Stuttgart.

Three other doping cases were on the agenda of the council, but no decision was immediately known.

John Ngugi, the five-time world cross-country champion from Kenya, was banned for four years after refusing to submit to an out-of-competition test earlier this year. The Kenyans are pressing for an arbitration hearing in the case.

Iris Biba, a German 10,000-metre runner, is contesting a drug ban on grounds of "exceptional circumstances."

So is Russian hurdler Lyudmila Narozhnikova, who claims that her estranged husband put steroids into her prescribed medication.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠10 ♣K952 ♣K107 ♠A74
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠10 ♣K63 ♠A98 ♣Q98
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A97 ♣97 ♠1093 ♠EJ1054
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠J109542 ♠63 ♠A ♠1098
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A974 ♠A9875 ♠7 ♠K
What is your opening bid?
A.—It's simply a question of whether you rate the hand worth a reverse, in which case you should open one heart; or not, in which case you open one spade and rebid hearts as cheaply as possible. Exchange the king of clubs for a low heart and one heart, followed by a reverse into spades, would be clearcut. As it is, our choice is an opening bid of one spade.

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A974 ♠A9875 ♠7 ♠K
What is your opening bid?
A.—It's simply a question of whether you rate the hand worth a reverse, in which case you should open one heart; or not, in which case you open one spade and rebid hearts as cheaply as possible. Exchange the king of clubs for a low heart and one heart, followed by a reverse into spades, would be clearcut. As it is, our choice is an opening bid of one spade.

Q.7—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A974 ♠A9875 ♠7 ♠K
What is your opening bid?
A.—It's simply a question of whether you rate the hand worth a reverse, in which case you should open one heart; or not, in which case you open one spade and rebid hearts as cheaply as possible. Exchange the king of clubs for a low heart and one heart, followed by a reverse into spades, would be clearcut. As it is, our choice is an opening bid of one spade.

Q.8—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A974 ♠A9875 ♠7 ♠K
What is your opening bid?
A.—It's simply a question of whether you rate the hand worth a reverse, in which case you should open one heart; or not, in which case you open one spade and rebid hearts as cheaply as possible. Exchange the king of clubs for a low heart and one heart, followed by a reverse into spades, would be clearcut. As it is, our choice is an opening bid of one spade.

Q.9—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A974 ♠A9875 ♠7 ♠K
What is your opening bid?
A.—It's simply a question of whether you rate the hand worth a reverse, in which case you should open one heart; or not, in which case you open one spade and rebid hearts as cheaply as possible. Exchange the king of clubs for a low heart and one heart, followed by a reverse into spades, would be clearcut. As it is, our choice is an opening bid of one spade.

Q.10—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A974 ♠A9875 ♠7 ♠K
What is your opening bid?
A.—It's simply a question of whether you rate the hand worth a reverse, in which case you should open one heart; or not, in which case you open one spade and rebid hearts as cheaply as possible. Exchange the king of clubs for a low heart and one heart, followed by a reverse into spades, would be clearcut. As it is, our choice is an opening bid of one spade.

Q.11—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A974 ♠A9875 ♠7 ♠K
What is your opening bid?
A.—It's simply a question of whether you rate the hand worth a reverse, in which case you should open one heart; or not, in which case you open one spade and rebid hearts as cheaply as possible. Exchange the king of clubs for a low heart and one heart, followed by a reverse into spades, would be clearcut. As it is, our choice is an opening bid of one spade.

Q.12—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A974 ♠A9875 ♠7 ♠K
What is your opening bid?
A.—It's simply a question of whether you rate the hand worth a reverse, in which case you should open one heart; or not, in which case you open one spade and rebid hearts as cheaply as possible. Exchange the king of clubs for a low heart and one heart, followed by a reverse into spades, would be clearcut. As it is, our choice is an opening bid of one spade.

Q.13—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A974 ♠A9875 ♠7 ♠K
What is your opening bid?
A.—It's simply a question of whether you rate the hand worth a reverse, in which case you should open one heart; or not, in which case you open one spade and rebid hearts as cheaply as possible. Exchange the king of clubs for a low heart and one heart, followed by a reverse into spades, would be clearcut. As it is, our choice is an opening bid of one spade.

Q.14—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A974 ♠A9875 ♠7 ♠K
What is your opening bid?
A.—It's simply a question of whether you rate the hand worth a reverse, in which case you should open one heart; or not, in which case you open one spade and rebid hearts as cheaply as possible. Exchange the king of clubs for a low heart and one heart, followed by a reverse into spades, would be clearcut. As it is, our choice is an opening bid of one spade.

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